

November 2020
Issue 140

The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Canberra
Aboriginal Church

The CAC service resumption
is currently uncertain.



Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748)

When some 250 years after a writer's death the world is still singing his hymns, which include such gems as "*O God our help in ages past*", then there is no doubt that the creator of these verses is one of the most acclaimed of hymn-writers.

In all, Isaac Watts wrote about 700 hymns, earning himself the title "Father of English Hymnody". Many of his hymns are still firm favourites today, and each Christmas we delight in singing his carol, "*Joy to the World*".

Isaac Watts was born at Southampton in 1674. He was the son of an Elder in the Congregational Church and at grammar school proved to be a gifted pupil. Sadly he fell foul of the law which prevented those who were not Anglicans from studying at Oxford or Cambridge, so he trained at one of the dissenting academies and in 1702 was appointed minister at Mark Lane Chapel in London.

After about ten years his poor health meant he could no longer continue his ministry and the last 36 years of his life were spent as a semi-invalid and guest of Sir Thomas and Lady Abney, which afforded him the opportunity to pen his prodigious output of fine hymns.

Even as a small boy Watts had a great interest in versifying. Once, during family prayers, he began to laugh. His father asked him why. He replied that he had heard a noise and opened his eyes to see a mouse climbing a rope in the corner and had immediately thought:

*"A little mouse for want of stairs
Ran up a rope to say his prayers"*

His father considered this irreverent and proceeded to administer corporal punishment, in the midst of which Isaac called out:

*"Father, Father, mercy take
And I will no more verses make!"*

There is a story about Watts which claims that at the age of 16 he complained to his father that the hymns sung in his local church were "dull and profitless". His father replied, "Then write something better", and the young Isaac took up the challenge to the lasting joy of us all.

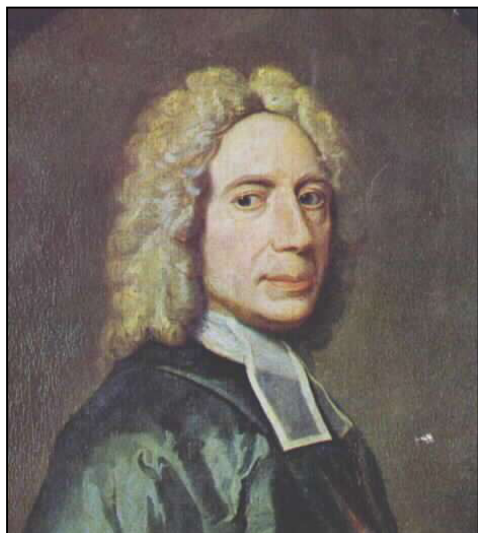
Is "*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*" the greatest hymn ever written? That prince of hymn-writers, Charles Wesley, certainly thought so and praised Watts in generous terms. And it was so regarded by the great Victorian essayist and poet Matthew Arnold who, apparently, heard it sung at a Presbyterian church in Liverpool on the last Sunday of his life and, so the story goes, was overheard repeating the third verse shortly before his sudden death a few days later.

At the time it was written, "*When I Survey*" broke new ground in that it was the first attempt to get away from objective, doctrinal hymns and introduce a subjective personal faith, and it is probably the first hymn to include the personal pronoun "I".

Some churches make a habit of omitting the fourth verse because it seems too gory, but it is unlikely that Isaac Watts would have approved of any shrinking from the horrors of Christ's crucifixion. In some hymn-books the word "present" in the fifth verse is changed to "an offering" which emphasises the personal sacrifice which Christ's death on the Cross demands of each and every one of us.

This great hymn is often used at Communion services, but it is at Easter that its message is most poignant and appropriate.

Gerry Hanson, "Christian England" in [This England](#), Spring 2009



When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1. When I survey the wondrous Cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?



4. His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe
And all the globe is dead to me.
5. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748)

We were recently glad to receive a note from Isobel.
She also sent a couple of cuttings including the Isaac Watts information.



Services since March have included the following:



Sunday service
Bible Study



Sunday service
Bible Study



Mr. Mark
Warren



Mr. Mark
Warren



Mr. Mark
Warren



Mr. Mark
Warren



Mr. Mark
Warren



Mr. Mark
Warren



Mr. Roy
Dallos



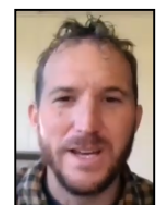
Mr. Mark
Warren



Rev. Phil
Anderson



Mr. Aubrey
Newman



Mr. Daniel
Pennington



Mr. Roy
Dallos

Sundays **22nd March to 30th August - No services due to COVID-19**
 Sunday **6th September** at 3pm - **Sunday service Bible Study** (in home)
 Sunday **13th September** at 3pm - **Sunday service Bible Study** (in home)
 Sunday **20th September** at 4pm - **Mr. Mark Warren** (in home)
 Sunday **27th September** at 4pm - **Mr. Mark Warren** (in home)
 Sunday **4th October** at 4pm - **Mr. Mark Warren** (in home)
 Sunday **11th October - No service**
 Sunday **18th October** at 5pm - **Mr. Mark Warren** (in home)
 Sunday **25th November** at 5pm - **Mr. Mark Warren**
 Sunday **1st November** at 5pm - **Mr. Mark Warren**
 Sunday **8th November** at 5pm - **Mr. Roy Dallos** - Come
 Sunday **15th November** at 5pm - **Mr. Mark Warren**
 Sunday **22nd November** at 5pm - **Rev. Phil Anderson**

Thanks too to **Mr. Roy Dallos**, **Mr. Aubrey Newman** and **Mr. Daniel Pennington** (Compassion) who provided sermons during our restrictions period for distribution in printed and / or video form.



Tim Collison (from Leprosy Mission) rang to thank us for our recent donation.
He put Etienne Pieterse who assists Leprosy Mission in touch with us. Etienne will preach in a few weeks time.

Ian Neville Hall

Ian was born in Rutherglen, Victoria in 1928. When he was about 18 months old his parents moved to NSW, to Crookwell.

I don't think Ian was very interested in school as he told tales of 'wagging' class and being found out! Crookwell High School only went to Intermediate level so he left school at 15. Later, after arriving in Canberra, he did night studies which enabled him to progress further in the Public Service. After leaving school he worked in the post office at Crookwell and I gather one of his duties was delivering telegrams. Not always a pleasant job during the war.

In 1945 or 1946 he came to Canberra and joined the Public Service. His first accommodation was in Mulwala Hostel which was located near Regatta Point (terrible food!). He then moved to Barton House (again, terrible food!). Where he spent most of his life in Turner has now been turned into multi-story units. He worked in various branches of the Department of the Interior including the Building and Property sections. At one stage he was stationed at Mount Stromlo and he had a stint working in Melbourne. Prior to being invalided out of the Public Service in the early 1980s he was Chairman of the Commonwealth Vehicle Accidents Committee.

Ian was a keen follower of many sports and, in his earlier years, was a very good hockey player, cricketer (did you hear about his great catch when fielding at silly mid-on?) and I think an A grade table tennis player. He also had a great passion for horses and horse racing.

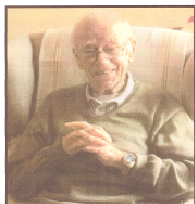
Ian married his first wife, Daphne, in 1951. They had three children, Ronald, Peter and Diane. There was much sadness in Ian's life. Daphne and both his sons predeceased him and Ian himself battled a lot of health issues including four heart attacks and three bouts of cancer.

Concerning his church life Ian always said he was born an Anglican and he would die an Anglican. He and Daphne were founding members of St. Phillips in O'Connor. When Ian and I married we worshipped at Reid Uniting Church and then joined the Canberra Christian Fellowship when it was formed.

Ian passed away on 5th October this year and in accordance with his wishes the funeral service was held at St. Phillips Anglican Church, O'Connor.

I do miss holding his hand, his 'would you like a cup of coffee?' and his 'how about going me halves?!'

Joyce



Ian Neville Hall
26-5-1928—5-10-2020

To the Canberra Christian Fellowship

Joyce and Family wish to thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy following our sad loss.

The flowers were beautiful and much appreciated

*Blessed is the Lord who daily bears us up.
Ps 68:19*



Late in October Norm celebrated his 100th birthday. I'm told the celebrations included reminders of highlights of his life compiled by his family. Even with coronavirus restrictions, it was a very happy time.



Maurine Wearne
has gone to be with her Saviour

A little of Maurine's story can be found in
The Next Step 97 (February 2018)



Coming Services

We meet at **Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Cnr. Gould and Watson Streets, Turner**



Mrs. Joyce Hall



Rev. Bob Prior



Mr. Etienne Pieterse

Sunday **29th November** at 5pm - **Mrs. Joyce Hall**
Sunday **6th December** at 5pm - **Rev. Bob Prior**
Sunday **13th December** at 5pm - **Mr. Etienne Pieterse** (Leprosy Mission)

Contacts

Canberra Christian Fellowship
P.O. Box 184
Campbell 2612
A.C.T.

E-mail: canberracf@yahoo.com.au
Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

TNS editor: Ian Denton – e-mail: iancd@yahoo.com

Prayer Points Please pray for the Aboriginal Church just as they are praying for us.

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia.
- and give thanks for new translations of scripture available to people in Arnhem Land.
- for leaders, doctors and ministers.
- for revival - that people will seek the Lord.
- for the elderly, and for each other.



and give thanks for the Canberra Aboriginal Church virtual gatherings using ZOOM for around 40 minutes each Sunday from 5pm. - A time of fellowship, worship and delving into God's Word.

The Canberra Aboriginal Church service resumption date is uncertain but will not be until the coronavirus risk, particularly for older and more vulnerable people, is more predictable and the possibility of local outbreaks lessened.

Annual General Meeting

We held our AGM following our first service back together at the church.
We welcomed Trish as a member and appointed our church officers for the year.

- President - Ian Denton
- Vice-President - Mark Warren
- Treasurer - Laurie Hockridge
- Secretary - Wendy Bassett
- Committee members - Marie Allen, Joyce Hall and Katherine Warren

We also decided to send donations to organisations we support as we haven't had opportunity to do so during the year.

Trish



Chaplains

Please pray that the chaplains we particularly support will be able to follow the new paths You have set before them. - Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy, Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy, Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches

