

# THE LINK

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BELMONT NEWSLETTER

## A new commandment

A commentary on John 13: 34-35 by Adrian Plass; *New Daylight* September-December 1997

**I** give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another.'

How would the Church change if this commandment were to be generally obeyed? Would such a new beginning be welcomed? I have my doubts.

The problem, you see, is that Jesus doesn't say, 'Love one another as you have always loved one another in the past.' He says, 'Love one another just as I have loved you.' This is a very tall order indeed, not the least because the love that Jesus showed to his disciples was a (to them) bewilderingly mixed bag of uncompromisingly tough-talking, overwhelming compassion, and quite extraordinary willingness to trust them with powers and tasks that they can't possibly have understood. In other words, the principle of only doing what he saw his Father doing was applied as rigorously by Jesus to individual relationships as to his broader ministry.

How many of us would be ready to abandon items of our personal agenda because the love of God for the person before us demanded it? Would I? Would you? My heart sinks whenever another major issue arises in the life of the Church, not because I don't think we should confront issues, but because there will always be a little bunch of single-issue fanatics



at both ends of the argument whose voices are louder and more strident than than the saner arguments of those who have put Jesus first in their mind, and are prepared to be wrong if necessary.

The acid test will never change.

Jesus himself appears in the flesh, right in front of me, and says, 'Look, I see what you're getting at, Adrian, but, as it happens, you're wrong.'

My two possible responses are:

'Nevertheless, I think I have to pursue this point - I've thought it through very carefully.'

Or: 'OK, Lord, you know best. I'll follow you.' If I find that the first answer is the one I would give, then I have no business commenting on matters of faith and life at all.

*Continued on the back page*

'GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL'

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## Today's Service

**Sunday 9th May** Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Sentence.** Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.' **John 15.16.**

**Collect.** Loving God, your Son has chosen us and called us to be his friends: give us grace to keep his commandments, to love one another, and to bear fruit which will abide; through him who is the true vine, the source of all our life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

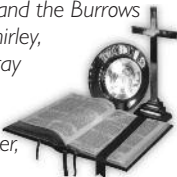
**Readings.** Acts 10.44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5.1-12; John 15.9-17.

## Prayers for Today

pray for those in

### need

- For Richard Burrows and Pam, and the Burrows family, for George Littras and Shirley, Ethan (Irene's Grandson), Murray Calder, June Cook, Jack Laherty, Sheila Dawson, Tom Collett, John and Lyn Hilcke, Alison Walker, Sylvia Biviano, Betty Miller, Diana Smith, Zaher Mhannah, Rhoda Lynch, for Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Rose Edwards, Charlotte MacEndry, Shirley Dougherty, Jim and Joy Durrant, Den, Dawn Tait and for Dawn's sister Coral, Bernard Conradie and André, Amira Farag and George, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Archdeacon Jill McCoy, Carolyn Melling, Alex, and for all others on our hearts and minds. For the Aged and their Support Services, e.g. Home Help, Meals on Wheels.



pray for

## our church

- For every member of St Stephen's at this time.
- For Leaders and Members of our House Groups as they resume.
- Pray with thanks for Reverend Liz, for her enthusiasm and for continuing to try new ways to lead us.
- For those among us who are working tirelessly to keep St Stephen's 'working as a Community of Faith'.
- To keep striving to maintain our connection with the community of Belmont and with each other to proclaim the good news of Jesus.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For the financial and other resources to enable Christ's mission.

pray for the

## world

- For peace and prosperity for all nations in political turmoil especially Myanmar
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and their Support Agencies.
- For all who are afflicted and affected by the Covid 19 pandemic, especially the people of India, all those who are caring for and treating those who have the disease and for the success of the vaccine roll-out.
- For all governments; that they will surrender power for service.
- For all Asylum Seekers and Refugees, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and all Advocates and Support Agencies.
- For Foundation South Sudan, for finances, and scholarship recipients (Mach, Abhor, David, James).
- For Automotive Industry Workers. (Prayers for the Community are on page 5)

## pray for the wider church

- For the Primate of The Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.
- For Archbishop Philip Freier and the Diocese of Melbourne.
- For The Oodthenong Episcopal Area (The Rt Revd Kate Prowd).
- For The Episcopal Church of South Sudan, St Stephens, Kakuma (The Revd Simon Majak) and Donholm (The Revd David Chol).
- For The Geelong Archdeaconry (The Ven Jill McCoy).
- For Christ Church, Geelong.

*Happy Mothers' Day*

May 9th 2021

# Thy Kingdom Come



*Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement.*

Last month the Parish Council agreed to take on the challenge of Thy Kingdom Come again this year. Thy Kingdom Come is a Global Wave of Prayer, an initiative of the Abp of Canterbury and now used by many denominations around the world.

The idea is to make a commitment to prayer for 5 people for ten days as we run up to Pentecost. The 13th -23rd of May.

We would like the whole congregation to take up the opportunity to prayer for people they know to come to faith or a deeper relationship with Jesus. There are plenty of resources available on line as well as videos to inspire you. There is even a phone app that is really fabulous,



*Happy  
Mothers'  
Day  
to all our  
Mums*

gives a verse, video clip and you type in the names of the people you wish to pray for and a reminder comes up on your phone each day for ten days.

We have registered as a Church to commit to prayer and so light up our corner of the world. You can choose how to do this each day, on your own, as a family, in home groups, at church. We are planning on setting up a prayer corner at St Stephens.

Transformation of ourselves and our society must begin with prayer, we can make a difference as we commit to prayer together

It is a great way to see Thy Kingdom Come.

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## The Suffolk Golding Mission, A Considerable Service...

*Continued from page 4*

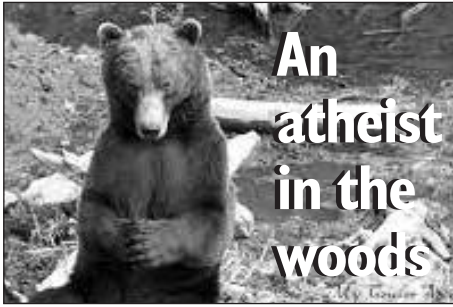
Later, with the House of Commons in secret session the minister made a brief report that ended: A considerable service has been rendered to the Allied cause by the safe arrival of this shipload.

Lord Suffolk, his secretary and his driver, formed a bomb disposal team that they called 'The Holy Trinity'. They lost their lives in 1941 when diffusing their thirty-fifth bomb. The Earl was awarded the George Cross, the other two were 'Commended'. The Earl is commemorated by a stained glass window in the church at Charlton in Wiltshire, his ancestral home. The window depicts the Broompark and the windjammer Mount Stewart on which young Jack was apprenticed.

The only time the epic was filmed was as part of a 1973 documentary series on Jack Howard. There were several written accounts; both these and the documentary contain many errors.

*Thanks for your article Marie.*

**If you are last to leave the Church, the Hall or Meeting Room, check that ALL doors are locked, lights out and heaters are off**



## An atheist in the woods

An atheist was walking through the woods. "What majestic trees!" "What powerful rivers!" "What beautiful animals!" He said to himself.

Suddenly, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look and saw a seven foot grizzly bear charging towards him. He ran as fast as he could along the path.

He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing on him, he looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. He tripped and fell.

As he rolled over to pick himself up, he found the bear was right on top of him, reaching towards him with its left paw, and raising its right paw to strike.

At that instant the Atheist cried out, "Oh my God!" Time Stopped; the bear froze.

The forest was silent.

A bright light shone upon the man, and a voice came out of the sky.

"You deny my existence for all these years, you teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to cosmic accident; do you expect me to help you out of this predicament?" "Am I now to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the bear a Christian?"

A pause..."Very well," said the voice.

The light went out.

The sounds of the forest resumed.

And the bear dropped his right arm, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke.

"Lord, bless this food for which I am about to receive".

## The Suffolk Golding Mission, A Considerable Service

*Published by Roy V Martin - available as an ebook  
A second world war tale about a 3rd cousin of Marie Kershaw: Ardale Vautier Golding*



*The tramp steamer 'Broompark'*

Among the 180 merchant ships that sailed from France in the three weeks after Dunkirk was the tramp steamer Broompark. After discharging a cargo of coal Captain Paulsen had waited, instead of the 500 evacuees that he expected he was introduced to two men who were intent on saving a valuable cargo and a number of scientists.

The men were a British Army Major and a rather wild looking young man who walked with a stick. Major Ardale Vautier Golding was a member of the British security services; his companion was Charles 'Wild Jack' Howard, the 20th Earl of Suffolk and 13th Earl of Berkshire. Both were accompanied by their lady secretaries, who had travelled across France with them.

The cargo included two crates of gem diamonds even then valued at between one and three million pounds sterling, plus the allies total supply of deuterium oxide, a nuclear moderator. There were also 600 tonnes of machine tools and many secret papers and plans. In addition to those in charge of the various consignments the ship loaded thirty French scientists and in many cases their families.

The ship arrived safely in Falmouth, from where a special train took them to London, arriving on the morning of 22 June 1940. Army sentries with fixed bayonets stood guard. The men took a taxi to Whitehall where they were met by Harold Macmillan, who was standing in for Herbert Morrison.

*Continued on page 3*

## This Week's Diary

### Monday 10th May

2.00 pm House Group at Patern St Highton\*

### Thursday 13th May

10.00am Meditation in the Meeting Room\*

11.00 am Prayer Group in the Meeting Room following the Meditation.\*

7.00 pm House Group at Abervale coffee and cake after.\*

\*If you would like to find out more about our small group meetings speak to Helen McLean or Reverend Liz.

### Friday 14th May

10.00 am Holy Communion in The Chapel

### Sunday 16th May

9.30 am Family Communion

**If there is a 'Church Event' happening, please let me know about it:**

Peter Fyfe **0417 576 710** or

[pfyfe@iinet.net.au](mailto:pfyfe@iinet.net.au) [pfyfe@iinet.net.au](mailto:pfyfe@iinet.net.au)

## More Prayers for Today

pray for the

## community

- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past, present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, for reconciliation and treaty.
- For those within our influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- For Those in the Teaching Profession.
- For The Gordon Technical College.

## BCA Boxes can be given to Lyn Hilcke now



If you haven't already done so, you can now pass your BCA Mission Boxes to Lyn Hilcke, she has been given the 'green light'.

## Daily Readings w/c 10.5.21

### Prayer of the Week

*Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, The truth, and the life: grant that we may walk in his way, rejoice in his truth, and share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

### Monday May 10th

#### Morning

Ps 25, or Ps 118; Exodus 34: 27-35: 9; John 14: 8-13.

#### Evening

Ps 27 or Pss 114, 115; Judges 6: 25-40; I Corinthians 10: 1-11.

### Tuesday May 11th

#### Morning

Pss 28, 29 or Ps 105: 1-22; Exodus 35: 20-36: 7; John 14: 8-13.

#### Evening

Pss 30, 32 or Ps 105: 23-45; Judges 7: 1-22(23-25); I Corinthians 10: 12-22.

### Wednesday May 12th

#### Morning

Ps 33 or Ps 103; Exodus 40: 17-38; John 15: 1-11.

#### Evening

Ps 99 or Song of 3YM(APBA p 427); Isaiah 63: 7-14; Colossians 2: 20-3: 4.

### Thursday May 13th Ascension Day

#### Morning

Ps 97; Daniel 7: 9-14; John 14: 12-29.

#### Evening

Ps 110; 2 Kings 2: 1-15; Revelation 5: 1-10.

### Friday May 14th

#### Morning

Ps 34 or Pss 65, 67; Deuteronomy 1: 1-21; John 15: 12-25.

#### Evening

Ps 119: 17-40 or Ps 107: 1-32; Judges 8: 1-3; I Corinthians 10: 23-11: 1.

### Saturday May 15th

#### Morning

Ps 37: 1-17, or Ps 81; Deuteronomy 1: 22-45; John 15: 26-16: 11.

#### Evening

Ps 37: 18-41; Judges 9: 1-22, 50-57; I Corinthians 11: 2-16.

## Rosters...are you on?

### Sunday May 16th

#### Leader and Preacher

9.30 am Liz Bufton

#### Readings

9.30 am Geoff Johnston

#### Prayers

9.30 am Richard McCullough

#### Communion Assistants

9.30 am Max Osborn  
Helen McLean

#### Kids' Church

9.30 am Anne Henderson

#### Welcomers

9.30 am Brett and Sarah Gear

#### Music

9.30 am Music Group

#### Audio Visual

9.30 am Fady Issa

#### Church Cleaning

Jan and Leigh Douglas

**Linen** Debra Conradie

**Brass** Cassie Calder

**Flowers** Volunteers needed please  
(Please contact Tom Collett)

**Lawns** Geoff Parkinson

***If you can't do your rostered task,  
please arrange for a replacement***



## Parish Contacts

### Vicar - Locum

Rev Liz Bufton  
**0437 524 865**

*St Stephen's email address is*

**ststephensang2@iinet.net.au**

*St Stephen's phone number* **5243 2557**

### Vicar's Warden

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

### Church Wardens

Tim Rowlands **0439 412 000**  
Fady Issa **0408 439 789**

### Treasurer

Pam Osborn **5243 4122**

### Ladies' Fellowship

Barbara Collett **5243 5632**

### Prayer Ministry

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

### Kids' Church

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

### Playgroup

Pam Osborn **5243 4122**

### Music Ministry

Tim Rowlands **5241 2233**

### Men's Breakfast

Max Osborn **5243 4122**

### Girls' Night Out

Jane Moloney **5241 9694**

### Rosters

Jan Douglas **0428 621 121**

### Link Editor and Advertising

Peter Fyfe **0417 576 710**

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*My email service is now working again, so if  
you want to contact me, please use the email  
or mobile number above*

### Key Ministry Co-ordinators

#### Families

Yvonne Fyfe **5243 7183**

#### Pastoral Care

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

## A new commandment...

*Continued from front page*

The business of loving as Jesus loved demands identification with the spirit of personal sacrifice that, in the end, sent him to the cross.

Tough, isn't it?

## Prayer

*Lord, teach us how to love you and  
each other. Heal your Church.*



*Please keep your mobile  
phone turned off during  
the services.  
Thank you.*