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ESSAY

NEWSLETTER OF ST SILAS & ST ANSELM ALBERT PARK

VOL. 2 ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2010 / 2011

FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to Volume Two!!! It seems no time at all since we were labouring over Volume One No. 1, and much has happened at St Silas since then.

Some of it has been covered here in ESSAY, some in the weekly Pew Bulletins, and even more in the various Reports presented at the Annual General Meeting on 29 November.

In this newsletter, we try to give you, the reader, a feeling for the life of the Parish, not just in its religious affairs but also in the community.

With pictures worth 'more than a thousand words', we have given you images in our Gallery section.

So for want of criticism here is more of the same. If you do not give us feedback, then we assume that you enjoy ESSAY and its contents. Elsewhere there is a brief questionnaire which you might like to answer.

Much of this issue is taken up with the celebration of Christmas in the Parish. We do hope that you are able to join us for some if not all of the events during which we joyfully gather for the best birthday party of all.

PILGRIM TALES

A number of St Silas folk undertook a pilgrimage to the Holy Land during September and October. Here are some memories.

From Father Ray: Holy Land Pilgrimage: a spiritual experience

Visiting Jerusalem and the Holy Land has been one of the major destinations for pilgrims of all the major religions for hundreds of years. In truth, although Israel is packed with interesting sights, most of it would rate very poorly as holiday destinations.



Celebrating the Eucharist at Mount Tabor.

Situated in Lower Galilee, Mt Tabor is believed by many Christians to be the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus.

But the connections to the Bible and to the activities of religious men and women make this place second to none. For Christians to walk in the footsteps of Jesus is a remarkable privilege and for most of our group of eighteen it was a delight to make connections that brought Bible places and stories to life.

I was able to reinforce these connections by reading appropriate texts as we gathered in these special places. On several occasions we celebrated the Eucharist (fairly informally) but in significant venues.

At the end of each of the fifteen days of our pilgrimage (and before dinner) we would gather for prayer, praise and reflections on the activities of the day. I found these times to be very special and moving and as we shared the experience I felt the group became all the more united and close to God.

For me, our pilgrimage was a spiritual experience.

From Judy Read:

The tranquility of the Sea of Galilee. Staying amongst the actual sites of our spiritual inheritance. Wandering freely through and around the wall of the old city of Jerusalem.

Assisting Father Ray with the communion wine at our outdoor service at Mount Tabor.

Wadi Rum and Petra are exceptional. The stark beauty and serenity have to be experienced.

From Helen Donagan:

A very memorable occasion for me was when my Birthday was celebrated not only with the singing of Happy Birthday to me at breakfast by **all** in the Hotel's huge dining room but then again on the boat on the Sea of Galilee. The thought of actually being on the water where it all happened just blows me away. Likewise thinking of the Loaves and Fishes.

(cont. page 4)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



This year (2010) the vicarage turned 100!

Dr Harry Ward found the following information, based on material in "HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF ST. SILAS, ALBERT PARK" (written by Canon Augustine B. Rowed), printed in the booklet "ST. SILAS CHURCH – ALBERT PARK. A CURE OF SOULS 1879-1979":

'The Rev. Augustine B. Rowed was appointed to St. Silas' parish late in 1909; his Institution as Vicar took place on December 9, 1909. He very soon proceeded with development of the building of a Vicarage on a site originally set aside for the purpose. The building was completed at the end of 1910, the cost being one thousand, two hundred and eighty-two pounds. The Council of the Diocese voted five hundred pounds out of the funds of the St. Luke's Trust; the balance was raised on debentures.'

The ivory-handled commemorative trowel (pictured left) used in laying the foundation stone of the vicarage on 5 November 1910 by the Right Reverend Henry Lowther Clarke, Archbishop of Melbourne, is mounted together with that of St Silas at the back of the church.



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

The Sunday Suppers program continues to provide much-needed sustenance to the needy in our community.

Our new Co-ordinator Geoff Roberts (pictured right), a member of St Luke's South Melbourne and a chef-in-training, has brought great gifts to his new role. He prefers to cook wholesome meals with high value nutrition, rather than simply heating processed food. This has gone down very well with our clients and they are coming in greater numbers. Geoff has made a real impact with his carefully planned and attractive menus. For example, on 7 November 90 free meals were served; average attendances have increased to a new level of 60 to 70.

Not surprisingly, we need more volunteer helpers. It's not onerous, say once every two months on a Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00pm. You can email Geoff at sundaysuppers.ap@gmail.com.

Recently the Port Phillip Community Chest gave a cheque of \$2,500 towards this ministry – a wonderful help. The Community Chest had its origins during WWII when a group was formed to support the Australian Comforts Fund for service personnel and their families, and it continued into peacetime. Today it raises money through its Opportunity Shop and other activities for the support of community groups, and annually allocates its proceeds according to the availability of funds and the merit of applications received.

The Rotary Club of Port Melbourne became aware of our Sunday Suppers program and nominated it for consideration.

Geoff attended the presentation ceremony in company with two of our Churchwardens Hume McGrath and

Peter Tuohy, where he received the cheque from the Mayor, Cr. Frank O'Connor. He gave an excellent outline of the program to the representatives of the many different organisations present.

It is vital that we receive continued financial support (tax deductible) from parishioners and elsewhere so that, with Geoff, we can take pride in this important ministry.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ★ Hocking Stuart for providing event billboards
- ★ Pacific Rim Thai Restaurant – the venue for Upper Room and food donations for Sunday Suppers program
- ★ Taco Bill's, South Melbourne, Albert Park Deli and Brumby's, Albert Park, for food donations for our Sunday Suppers program
- ★ Craig Pitt and LitSupport for printing assistance
- ★ Freehills Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys
- ★ The Avenue Bookstore, Albert Park

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Commenting on his report, the Vicar spoke of how easy it was to write because of the great joy he gains from this parish.

He regards St Silas as a spiritual beacon in the community.

He is thrilled with the additional impetus given our Eucharist by the first class music provided by organist Hume McGrath, weekly cantors and monthly professional choristers. This adds to our tradition of excellence in worship, where we can learn about God and that He is not to be taken for granted.

The life of the parish is about doing things together, Fr Ray said, and with the help of the Reverends Moore, this is vital to the life of the community and to our outreach program.

He concluded by saying that whatever we are doing, best of all we should have fun.

As he wrote in the Vicar's Report, 'The Parish of the Parks is growing in reputation as a centre of care, growth in spirituality, excellence in liturgy and good fun.'

The following elections and appointments were confirmed at the AGM:

Vicar's Warden: Mr Hume McGrath.

People's Wardens: Ms Marcia Fleet, Mr Peter Tuohy.

Members of Vestry: Mrs Helen Donagan, Ms Margaret Cross, Mrs Judy Read, Ms Marion Binks, Mr Geoff Carroll and Ms Rebecca Alexander

Pictured below are some of the Vestry members:



Back row: Margaret Cross, Hume McGrath, the Vicar, Marion Binks.

Front row: Helen Donagan, Judy Read, Peter Tuohy.



CHANGE ON THE WAY

The initial 'weighty' response to Change for the Better program was such that new containers were commissioned, the slots in the original boxes being insufficiently wide to allow the insertion of the many envelopes stuffed full of coins. It is estimated that to date \$500 has been contributed from St Silas, and around \$300 from St John's, Toorak.

St Silas is the pilot project and it is going so well that we plan to talk to Anglicare Victoria and the Diocese about rolling it out across the wider Church and community. This venture has the potential to make a significant impact on the welfare of many, in Melbourne and beyond.

Pictured are Fred White, who designed the boxes, and Fr Graham Reynolds



THE ELEVATOR: GOING UP!

The Archbishop has agreed to dedicate and bless our new elevator on the next Feast of the Ascension, Thursday 2 June.

So by this date we will have not only a new elevator and disabled toilet but also the stairs and entry to St Silas Church will be transformed.

This is a major project and one of the vital stages of implementing our strategic and master plans. The development of the lift goes back many years; it was mooted in the early days when the mezzanine floor was built. It was one of the great hopes that came with the merger of St Anselm's parish with St Silas.

When the Vestry developed the Master Plan about three or four years ago, the elevator was the central and most important stage of the fifteen stages of this plan.

The elevator has been designed by our Architect, David Moody of McQueen, Whitefield, Irwin Alsop. The design has been approved by our local Council, including their heritage advisor, the Diocesan committees and of course our own Vestry.

The tendering process was completed in September and Bailey Heights Builders was the successful tenderer. The tender was more than we anticipated; however, the Anglican Development Fund has accommodated this and will loan the funds required over a twenty-year repayment schedule.

Some preliminary work may be done just before Christmas, with the works commencing in earnest early in the New Year.

This exciting project will remove a major accessibility issue for folk attending St Silas Church and give us the ability to expand our programs.

Pilgrim Tales *continued from page 1*

From Di Steffensen:

Apart from all the spectacular Churches and Sacred Sites which we visited in Jerusalem, one of my favourite memories is of a small village we visited, built as a typical village in Jesus' time.

It was situated on a gentle rocky slope with poor soil and narrow terracing. It was so interesting to see the farmer tending his sheep and to see the rough sheep pen they would have used to protect them. It reminded me of the shepherds on the hillside when Jesus was born.

Olives and fruits were also grown – the gnarled old olive trees were full of character and a delight to see. There were some donkeys which reminded me of Palm Sunday and Jesus' journey into Jerusalem.

In the little houses we saw spinning and weaving, baking and carpentry and it felt as though we had stepped back in time and could have seen Jesus there too, breaking bread as he did at the Last Supper.

All around the village there was a lovely atmosphere of peace and serenity and I felt that the presence of Jesus was everywhere and very close. The village and people will always remain in my minds' eye and on reflection I can still feel the spiritual essence of the sunny Jerusalem hillside.

BACH TO BROADWAY A HIT

The Spring Musicfest – *From Bach to Broadway* – concluded the busy program of concerts for 2010.

The Bayside Singers provided some fine *a capella* singing; Bach was represented by organ solos by Hume McGrath; Tracey Hendy and Lee Palmer gave voice to Broadway melodies; Frankie Oakley and Richard Ward took us on a folk-song journey, and the afternoon entertainment commenced with a short recital by the Children's Choir led by Natasha Wagner.

The Choir was somewhat diminished because of school holidays, but what they lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm and delighted the audience with *Lollypop* and *Colour My World*, accompanied by appropriate actions.

From Glenys McInnes:

The image that springs to mind is of the Sea of Galilee.



This huge inland fresh water sea is still in a rural setting so the landscape is very much as it would have been in the days when Jesus and the disciples fished and breakfasted and walked on the shores.

On the second day of our pilgrimage we were able to go out onto the sea in wooden boats. From these we could see places on the shore which are named also in New Testament times like Capernaum, the Land of Gennesaret and the Mount of Beatitudes.

The engines on the boat were turned off and our little group of 18 was silent but for the sound of water

lapping the sides of the boat while we listened to the reading of the stilling of the storm and said some prayers.

From Peter Tuohy:

For me, the highlight was the opportunity to reflect on the events we know so well from the scriptures, whilst actually being at the places where, it is believed, the events took place. The various locations in Galilee were surprisingly close together, as were those in Jerusalem.

To go out upon the Sea of Galilee having just seen the shell of a boat from about Jesus' time, to participate in the Eucharist atop Mount Tabor, to walk through the ruins of Capernaum, to experience the tranquility of the beautiful Mount of the Beatitudes, to walk the Palm Sunday route and the Way of the Cross, made for a set of experiences well beyond anything I could have anticipated.

Christmas Services

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|--------|---------|---|
| 19 Dec | 11:00am | Festal Lessons & Carols Service |
| | 12:30pm | Parish Lunch |
| | 6:00pm | Community Carols @ Albert Park Primary School |
| 20 | 3:30pm | South Port Community Nursing Home Carols |
| 24 | 5:00pm | Crib Service |
| | 10:30pm | Midnight Mass & Carols |
| 25 | 8:00am | Prayerbook Eucharist |
| | 9:30am | Festal Eucharist & Carols |
| 26 | 9:30am | Sung Eucharist |

All up there were twenty-five events in 2010 including Upper Room discussions and Malvern Theatre Company visits.



Tracey Hendy singing "If I loved you" from Carousel.

Tracey with Lee Palmer



Bayside Singers



FOND FAREWELL

Our good friends from across the sea, the Reverends Raymond and Bobbie Moore, are leaving us for an overseas journey, first to England to see their new grandson, Isaac James, and then to their home in Ireland.



Their time at St Silas has endeared them to the parish, through their preaching, pastoral care, running study groups, initiating children's ministry and leading services. They will be missed, not least by those folk at home who have received regular pastoral visits and spiritual care.

However they are not lost to us. On their return to Melbourne in 2011, Raymond has been appointed locum of the Parish of St Clement's, Elsternwick, and Bobbie to St Stephen's, Highett, in whose vicarage they have been living.



We wish them Godspeed and hope to see them from time to time after their return to Australia.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Please tick the boxes appropriate to your answer and either email your responses to the parish office or cut this out and give to Lee Palmer or Catherine Moore.

I currently receive ESSAY by email hard copy

If you do not currently receive it by email and wish to do so, please email your request to the parish office officeap@optusnet.com.au.

I read it immediately within a week when I have time

After I have read it, I pass it on to family/friends Yes No

I would like to see more/less pictures (delete one)

I would like to read more theological reflections travel stories personal profiles/interviews

I find the Calendar of Events useful unnecessary

I would be happy to contribute a short article on

Do you have any additional comments? If so, please write them here:

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Name:

Contact details (if you wish).

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