

MY ISLAND BREAK by Pauline Glover

What a great incentive the travel vouchers have been. Recently, my friend Vicki and I each received a \$50.00 regional voucher, and after some discussion we decided that we would 'pool' our vouchers and have a two-night stay on Kangaroo Island. We booked the ferry and our departure day soon arrived. We had a very calm crossing to the island and so began our first day. Kangaroo Island is divided into seven regions: *West End, North Coast, Parndana and Districts, South Coast, Kingscote & Districts, American River and Penneshaw & Dudley Peninsula*. Over the three days, we managed to do them all. Our contribution to the economy began on the first day, with products from *Emu Bay Lavender farm, Clifford's Honey farm, Kangaroo Island Spirits* for some Wild Gin (and a delicious gin cocktail while we were there), *Eucalyptus Distillery* and a beautiful Pinot Grigio from *Spring Seed Wine Co*. Then it was off to the *Mecure Kangaroo Island Lodge* in Kingscote for our accommodation. Their advertised award-winning *Reflections Restaurant* was disappointing - however we did manage dinner before going to our room, sitting on the balcony overlooking the water and drinking said wine!

Friday saw us exploring *Seal Bay, Remarkable Rocks and Admiral's Arch*, and then on to the western end of the Island where we visited the *Cape du Couedic Lighthouse*. The devastation of the bush fires was apparent but along with that lots of new growth could be seen. There were a good number of tourists around whom we kept meeting at the different spots. Friday night dinner was at the *Community Club, the 'Shed'*, where the money raised goes to support grass roots sports organisations. We did the raffle but didn't come away winners. On Friday the weather was just gorgeous, quite windy in places but with glorious blue skies and white fluffy clouds, so we felt like we were winners on that day!



Not sure how big one kanga distance is!



Cape Willoughby Lighthouse



Burnt tree and new growth of everlasting daisies. Truly life & death in one picture

On Saturday we enjoyed a delicious breakfast at the 'Deck' in Penneshaw. It was quite cool, and we sat overlooking the water and watched the swans and boats bobbing. On the trip back to Penneshaw we visited several beaches, including *Pennington Bay, Baudin Beach, Island Beach and Brown's Beach*. Just gorgeous places with some huge homes. A visit to *Cape Willoughby and Dudley Wines* (with a red and white purchase) completed a wonderful holiday break.

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Our best wishes to **Robin Limb**, who had a fall recently and injured her shoulder. Robin had the good sense to ensure that her shopping companion was her GP, who was able to administer first aid on the spot(!) Robin is now recovering at home, having stayed with a friend for a short time after surgery,

Great-grandmother Sheila, 84, declares Covid-19 vaccine
best Christmas-present.



Picture from 'Navigo' Newsletter, UK 9 Dec 2020

CHOGS parishioner Christine Schofield's sister Sheila Page, who lives in the UK, made headlines recently when she was the very first person in her area to get the Covid-19 vaccine. Sheila's home lies in the Humber, Coast and Vale Region. If, like me, you are not quite sure what that description entails, it's **"the area stretching along the east coast of England from Scarborough to Cleethorpes and along both banks of the Humber; Coast and Vale incorporates the cities of Hull and York and large rural areas across East Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire."** "That's a lot of ground(!)"

Sheila received her "jab" from hospital sister Kristy Costa (pictured above), who normally works in the Cardiology Dept at Castle Hill Hospital. Kristy, who is one of a team of trained vaccinators at Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, stated: "I was really excited but a bit nervous today. It's not your average day at work with all the television cameras around. But it's a great day. I'll definitely be getting the vaccine when it's my turn because it's the light at the end of the tunnel."

Sheila, who has seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, said: "I couldn't wait. People who don't want it are silly. I was absolutely chuffed when they rang me to offer it. I think it's marvellous. I feel on top of the world, and it's one of the best Christmas presents I've had."

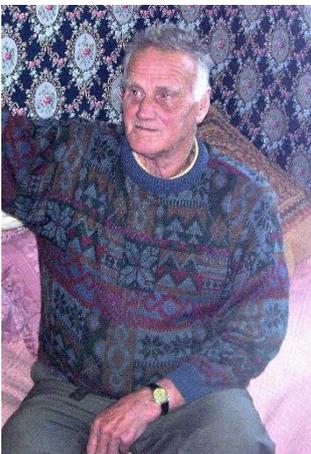
Sheila was among the first of the priority groups, including the over-80s, care home workers and extremely vulnerable members of NHS staff to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Next will be the frontline health workers – much the same as is planned here in Australia.

In 2021 Chris Schofield's family also experienced the loss of Chris and Sheila's older brother, Brian Lawrence, who died in the UK aged 86. Brian was a seaman and his funeral was held at the *Mission to Seamen* in Newcastle, England on the 23rd of January 2021. During the service, the Seafarer's version of the 23rd Psalm (see below) was used. The eulogy was delivered by Paul Shone, the Mission Superintendent.

Brian was born in Partington, a village near Hull in Yorkshire. When very much underage, he ran away to sea to be a fisherman, joining the crew of a deep-sea trawler in the North Sea. Several years later, during the "cod wars" between England and Iceland over fishing rights in the North Atlantic, violent confrontations between British frigates and Icelandic gunboats occurred spasmodically in the arctic waters. On one such occasion Brian was knocked overboard and crushed between two ships. He was rescued by an Icelandic boat and ended up spending months in hospital in Iceland. Forty years later, the compensation he was awarded allowed Brian to buy a house in Newcastle for him and his family. He never went to sea again but maintained his links by driving trucks around the docks and countryside.

As a hobby Brian started building rather large model fishing boats of many kinds and from many eras. These models were sailed on the local boating pond and were also used for fundraising exhibitions at the Mission. His efforts were recognised by an award from the Mayor of Newcastle, and some of his models are displayed at the Newcastle Maritime Museum.

Now sadly the old man of the sea has gone, and we shall not see his like again. A rough, tough, generous and friendly person. An example to us all. Paul Shone



Brian Lawrence

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift
He lighteth me across the dark waters;
He steereth me in the deep channels.
He keepeth my log.
He guideth me by the star of holiness for his
name sake.
Yea though I sail mid the thunders and
tempests of life, I shall dread no danger, for
thou art near me.
Thy love and care, they shelter me.
Thou preparast a harbour before me in the
homeland of eternity.
Thou anointest the waves with oil, my ship
rideth calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me on
the voyage I take,
And I will rest in the port of my God forever.



Brian's model trawlers



ADVENT



At the 2nd Sunday of Advent Service on 6th December 2020, Father Michael reflected with feeling on the nature of **Advent**, a time when we learn how to **wait**, an art often forgotten these days when we expect instant results. He spoke of the blessedness of waiting patiently, of growing gently, seeking understanding and solutions to our innermost struggles. Becoming anxious or impatient risks turmoil and losing the moment when clarity does come. Accordingly, the **Advent Bible Study in 2020**, which was entitled **Wonder of Wonders: Leading us to Christmas** included reflections from *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, the martyred German theologian who was arrested by the Nazis in 1943 and imprisoned for one and a half years before being executed in April 1945.

From his prison cell, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote prolifically and eloquently about the “*art of waiting*”:

“The blessedness of waiting is lost on those who cannot wait, and the fulfillment of promise is never theirs. They want quick answers to the deepest questions of life and miss the value of those times of anxious waiting, seeking with patient uncertainties until the answers come. They lose the moment when the answers are revealed in dazzling clarity.” **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

“Waiting is an art that our impatient age has forgotten. It wants to break open the ripe fruit when it has hardly finished planting the shoot. But all too often the greedy eyes are only deceived; the fruit that seemed so precious is still green on the inside, and disrespected hands ungratefully toss aside what has so disappointed them.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Whilst many people have heard of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, some are less familiar with this German theologian’s story, so I will include a summary. Boenhoeffer was born into an aristocratic family without particularly strong religious affiliations, although his maternal grandfather preached at the court of Kaiser Wilhelm II. His father was a well-known neurologist and professor of psychiatry. There were eight children in Bonhoeffer’s family, including a twin sister, Sabine, and all were encouraged to take an interest in literature and fine arts, rather than religious studies. Because he became a skilled pianist, his family thought Boenhoeffer might have a career in music, so they were not impressed when he told them at the age of 14 that he planned to become a minister and a theologian. At the age of 21 he graduated with his *Doctor of Theology* degree from the University of Berlin and after that spent time in Spain and America before returning to his post of lecturer at the University.

It was during these years that Hitler rose to power, becoming Chancellor in 1933, and 18 months later, President of Germany. Hitler’s escalating anti-Semitic rhetoric and actions outraged theologians and pastors like Bonhoeffer, who joined forces, and spoke publicly about their opposition. In 1934 Bonhoeffer helped found the *Confessing Church*, insisting that Christ, and not Hitler was the head of the church. By 1936 the government banned Bonhoeffer from teaching theology at the University and he was denounced as “*an enemy of the state*”, so he began educating pastors in an underground seminary where his students and their families could take refuge. By 1938 he was moving his seminary from village to village until it was eventually discovered and closed, which made others fearful about speaking out against Hitler. At the time he was also writing a book called *The Cost of Discipleship*, centred on the Sermon on the Mount, in which he describes what he believes it means to be a disciple of Christ. The book is considered “*a classic of Christian thought.*”

Until this time, Bonhoeffer had been a pacifist, trying to oppose the Nazis “*through religious action and moral persuasion*” but after the closure of the seminary he began his involvement with the German resistance, signing up with the German secret service (to serve as a double agent). He was supposed to collect information whilst travelling to church conferences in Europe, but in truth he was helping German Jews escape to Switzerland. This included his twin sister Sabine whose husband was Jewish. The family had been imprisoned, but with his help escaped to the UK in 1940. Bonhoeffer did become part of a plot to overthrow Hitler although he was never at the centre of things. He visited America as a guest lecturer, but within months of arriving decided he needed to return home, stating: “*I have made a mistake in coming to America. I must live through this difficult period in our national history with the Christian people of*

Germany. I will have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Eventually, Bonhoeffer's resistance efforts, particularly his role in rescuing Jews, was discovered and in April 1943 he was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to Tegel, their high security prison in Berlin, where he was held for one and a half years. During this time, Bonhoeffer was able to correspond with family and friends, and to act as pastor to fellow prisoners. Initially he was also able to receive visitors. However, in February 1945 he was secretly moved from Tegel to Buchenwald concentration camp, and finally to Flossenburg concentration camp, which unlike other such camps lay in a remote area in the Bavarian alps near the Czechoslovakian border. It was there, on April 9, 1945, only one month before Germany surrendered that Bonhoeffer, together with six other resistance people, was hanged.

Ten years later, a camp doctor who witnessed Bonhoeffer's execution described the scene: *"The prisoners were taken from their cells and the verdicts of court martial read out to them. Through the half open door in one room of the huts, I saw Pastor Bonhoeffer, before taking off his prison garb, kneeling on the floor praying fervently to his God. I was most deeply moved by the way this lovable man prayed, so devout and so certain that God heard his prayer. At the place of execution, he again said a prayer and then climbed the steps to the gallows, brave and composed. His death ensued in a few seconds. In the almost 50 years that I have worked as a doctor, I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God.:*

In 1967, excerpts from some of Bonhoeffer's prison correspondence were edited and published by the *Union Seminary Quarterly Review*, an academic *Theology* journal established in 1939. Entitled *Letters and Papers from Prison* they created much discussion and some controversy.

An interesting aspect of all the above, especially in relationship to the letters he wrote in prison is the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's relationship with a young woman named Maria von Wedemeyer, whom he met when he returned to Germany from America and joined the resistance movement. Maria was one of seven children born to an aristocratic German family which was active in political affairs. He was 37, viewed as a confirmed bachelor, and Maria 19 when they announced their engagement in 1943 only a few months before Bonhoeffer was arrested and imprisoned. During his original internment in Tegel prison, Maria had been able to visit Dietrich, and it was throughout this time that he began writing his letters to her expressing his loneliness, and his hopes that he would one day be released and able to marry her. Interestingly, when Dietrich and Maria initially wanted to go public with their engagement, her mother asked Maria to wait for a year, perhaps understandable given Maria's youth - although she was considered very mature for her age. However, when Bonhoeffer was imprisoned, Maria's mother immediately relented, as only parents and wives or fiancées were permitted to visit men in prison - but just three months after he was brought to prison, all visitors were banned for Bonhoeffer.



Maria von Wedemeyer

When the Second World War ended, Maria studied mathematics in Germany, and from 1948 onwards attended Bryn Mawr College near Philadelphia in the USA, graduating with an MA in 1950. She married twice, both marriages ending in divorce, the first in 1949 to Paul-Werner Schniewind, the son of a theologian with whom she had two sons; the second in 1959 to an American manufacturer Barton Weller, which ended in 1965. She became well known in the world of computing, beginning as a statistician working at Remington Rand and Honeywell, and rising to executive positions. At the time of her death Maria was described as *"the highest-ranking woman in her field of engineering at Honeywell, where she was in charge of a project on minicomputers."* She died of cancer on the 16 November 1977, in Boston, USA. She was 53 years old.

The Letters

Maria kept the letters from Bonhoeffer in a bank vault for many years, donating both these and some of his manuscripts to Harvard University in 1966, although access was restricted until 2002. In 1967 She also published a selection of the letters under the title *'The Other Letters from Prison'*. Fifteen years after her death her complete correspondence with Bonhoeffer was published by her elder sister, Ruth Alice von Bismarck under the title *"Love Letters from Cell 92"*.

Maria has been duly acknowledged as Dietrich Bonhoeffer's true love. Studying the letters, Bonhoeffer devotees have been moved by the strength of his feelings for this young woman, discovering a surprisingly passionate and romantic side to Bonhoeffer, and his fervent hopes for their future together, despite the bleakness of his situation.

***"A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes.....and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent."* Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

ADVENT has always been a special time at *the Good Shepherd*. The colourful banners draped across the altar with their vibrant messages of hope and joy invite us in, filling us with joyful expectation, readying us for the gospel messages as we celebrate the coming of Christ. *O Come, O Come Emmanueluntil the Son of God appear.....(!)*



God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the Kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen



As in previous years, the congregation was treated to one of Isobel Varcoe's wonderful Advent wreaths.

Fashioned entirely from Australian native flowers, Isobel's colourful creations are something to look forward to each Advent. They are often different from the previous year, and certainly bear inspecting at close quarters. I encourage you to walk up and take a closer look after one of the Advent services - a reminder of how spectacular our native species can be.



4th Sunday of Advent service, 20th December 2020

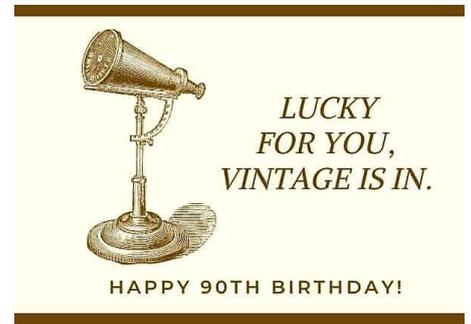


It was good to have the Fuller family with us at the 4th Sunday service. The Christmas tree looked a treat, thanks to Father Michael who decorated it with help from the Fok boys, Jared and Dylan. The congregation enjoyed a cuppa in the hall after the service – socially distancing in place of course(!)



Joan Middleton

After the 10.00 am service on 20th December, another one of our "girls" turned 90, as **Ruth Prater celebrated this milestone** with her parish friends. Ruth was joined by her sons James and Richard, and Richard's partner Kate. Joan Middleton, who has known Ruth for many years, spoke of Ruth's long association with CHOGS.



CONGRATULATIONS RUTH, AND A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM US ALL AT CHOGS !!!



Ruth and Fran Kerwin



Ruth with sons Richard (at front), his partner Kate behind him, and James on the right



We get some nice responses from people who enjoy reading The LINK – like this letter which we received recently. Thank you for your encouragement and support. We appreciate the feedback.



*The Editor
The Link
The Church of the Good Shepherd*

I decided to take a few moments to write to acknowledge my thoughts about The Link newsletter.

Whilst I am not a parishioner at The Church of the Good Shepherd, I have read issues over the past three years or so. I find the varying contents to be of great interest. Over and above the regular parish messages, the reader being taken into an aspect of another person's life makes the vivid descriptions of personal articles meaningful and valid.

Accompanying photographs always add to the newsletter, and in particular, I have noticed the vast difference in the church garden over the years. Well done to the gardeners!

I value my friend regularly providing me with a copy of The Link and hope that the publication continues for many years ahead.

Resident of Camden Park