

NATURE TALES

BIRD IN THE HAND

Colin and Margaret Ames

Recently, Margaret has been hand feeding a very timid magpie on our back doorstep. We have nicknamed it (Nervous) *Nellie!* It was born early in December, along with two others, and for some time it was happily reared by its parents. But as time passed, we became aware that *Nellie* seemed unwelcome in the family group, and she became increasingly nervous when feeding with the others. Eventually the bird became a loner and Margaret started offering it food on its hurried lone trips to our garden. One day it hopped onto Margaret's lap when she was sitting on the step and ate from her hand (a special mixture approved by a local bird vet). Unfortunately, we have not yet been successful in getting a photo of these events, which I had hoped to include in this LINK.



However, it is not the first time Margaret has befriended visiting birds. This photo of a Murray Magpie feeding from Margaret's hand near the same back step was taken on the 21st of February 2014. Murray had to withstand swooping attacks from other birds to get to her hand, but it must have been worthwhile because its visits continued well into the autumn of that year. When winter came, it disappeared, and has never returned to feed.

However, three years later, on 13th December 2017, we photographed a Murray Magpie cooling off in one of the bird baths in our garden. Could it have been the same bird?

Earlier that year, on 16th March 2017, we photographed a male magpie who had been coming into our garden with his partner and their young families for many years. We called him "*Bruce*" and he still visits several times a week. One of his favourite activities is to fly up onto the sill outside the kitchen window and wait there, until we get his special "*magpie mix*" from the nearby fridge and walk to the back door to greet him. He then sails down for a quick snack before flying away and spending the rest of the day leading his "*flock*." He is the only bird of any variety to fly onto the outside kitchen windowsill and patiently wait for proceedings in the kitchen, such as washing up, to be completed before he is eventually fed!

And these amazing bird visits are all the result of providing several water containers for birds in our garden, along with a scattering of native shrubs and plants, and wholesome "*bird vet approved*" grains or mixtures appropriate to the species....

A RARE SIGHTING

Chris Bates-Brownsword



Female Orchard Swallowtail butterfly

As we turned into the drive of our house in Cumberland Park one day in mid-February this year, Harold and I saw what looked like a tiny bird flapping its wings and hanging off the end of a low bush, but then I realised it was an enormous butterfly. Its colouring was similar to the *Dainty swallowtails* seen in many people's gardens, but this one was huge in comparison. It reminded me of a



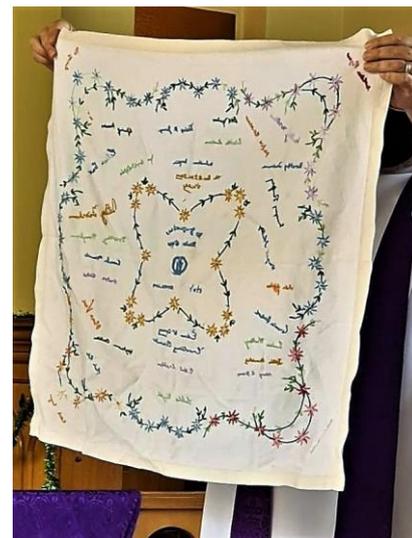
Dainty Swallowtail butterfly

butterfly I'd seen amongst some my father brought back from New Guinea after the war (under glass). I couldn't get a photo, so when it fluttered off, I raced inside to look it up while it was fresh in my mind and discovered that it was a female *Orchard Swallowtail butterfly*, one of the largest to occur in Australia, and the biggest one in SA. It doesn't breed here and is rarely seen this far south as it is a humid tropical and subtropical species that usually occurs in the eastern states and further north - so when it is seen in South Australia it is classified as a "*vagrant*" or visitor. It is considered a minor pest in citrus orchards in the eastern states because of the damage its larvae cause to the leaves. These butterflies have occasionally been sighted in Waikerie on the River Murray where they have adapted to introduced citrus trees, but this one possibly ventured further south because of the excess rain and humidity that Adelaide experienced during February. Whatever the reason this one travelled so far south, I'm so glad it did and that we had the chance to see this exquisite butterfly(!)

The mystery of the embroidered shawl



At the *Advent 4 Service* on Sunday 19th December 2021, Fr Michael held up an embroidered shawl which was used to wrap the baby Jesus for the Christmas Nativity scene. On closer examination, he found mention of **St Augustine's Church**, the parish church for Slade Green in the Diocese of Rochester in the UK. On impulse, Fr Michael emailed the Vicar, the Rev Jim Bennett, to see what the connection with *The Church of The Good Shepherd* might be, and to his amazement received an immediate reply from the Rev Bennett who just happened to be



sitting at his desk! Although he did not have the answer, Reverend Bennett is happy to follow up the enquiry and get back to us - so **Watch this Space for further developments.**

A quick look at **St Augustine's** website shows it to be an inclusive church with quite a diverse community. Back in the mid-1800s, Slade Green was a small village known for growing cabbages but when the railways came, it grew considerably and became the family church for future generations. Slades Green has a high level of deprivation, with a significant number of children at the three schools within the parish classified as "pupil premium" children, which means they receive government grants to decrease the attainment gap caused by lack of income or family upheaval.

The church has a weekly café called *St A's Welcome Café* which is open to all ages and is 'dementia friendly'. Interestingly, whilst events at the church attract large numbers of children and adults, the majority are not regular church attenders.



The Congregation March 2019 (pic St Augustines website)

Sunday worship attendance averages 50 adults and 25 under 16-year-olds. Children take part as acolytes, servers, crucifer, readers and intercessors and there is a large play pen at one end of the church for under 4-year-olds.

The church has seen turbulent times. *St Augustines* was subject to air raids during both world wars and received families from the east of London who had been "bombed out".

During the war, the local community was supported by a *British Restaurant* operating from the church hall, which supplied up to 250 lunches six days a week to residents, the school and nearby factories. Substantial rebuilding work was required following a direct hit during an air raid in 1944 and following a fire in 1991 which destroyed the roof and much of the internal fabric.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022



This year the service for the 2022 *World Day of Prayer* was held on Friday 4th March at Ascot Park Community Uniting Church. The theme for 2022 was: **"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord"**.

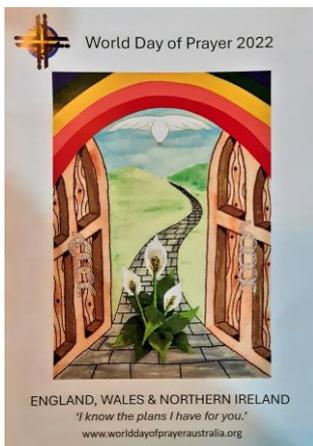
This service, prepared by the women of **England, Wales and Northern Ireland**, (three countries forming part of the United Kingdom), was celebrated all over the world on that day. **Scotland** was not represented in this service as it prepares services for WDP in its own right.



Writers of the World Day of Prayer service reflected on the story of their countries: "We are steeped in history. Through exploitation, piracy, trade, and colonisation, we industrialised early and saw developments in science, maths, medicine and industry. We are increasingly more aware of the role of the empire in the slave trade and the effects of technological advances on climate change."

Also mentioned were the ongoing challenges of BREXIT when in 2016 UK voters chose to leave the European Union. "The vote came into effect in 2020 and divided the UK. The majority of England and Wales voted to leave, though London voted to remain. Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain. The UK government is currently working hard to pull the country together for the future."

During the service, in **Voices of Women – Stories of Hope**, the gathering heard the narratives of three women Lina, Natalie and Emily. Their bleak situations went from despair to the promise of a future as they experienced God's plans to bless them, often through the love and support of their local church. The church community became their "wider family, and a safe place where people loved them and did not let them down."



Each year, the cover of the *World Day of Prayer Service* booklet is designed by an individual artist. The images used in the work reflect the theme of the current year.

The 2022 Cover Page was designed by **Angie Fox**, an Embroiderer and Vestment Designer from Derby in England. She writes: "Following the theme given, I have used several images to depict the key words as follows: **Freedom:** An open door to a pathway across an endless open vista. **Justice:** broken chains. **God's Peace and Forgiveness:** the dove of peace and a peace lily breaking through the pavement. **Overall:** the rainbow represents the overarching love of God."



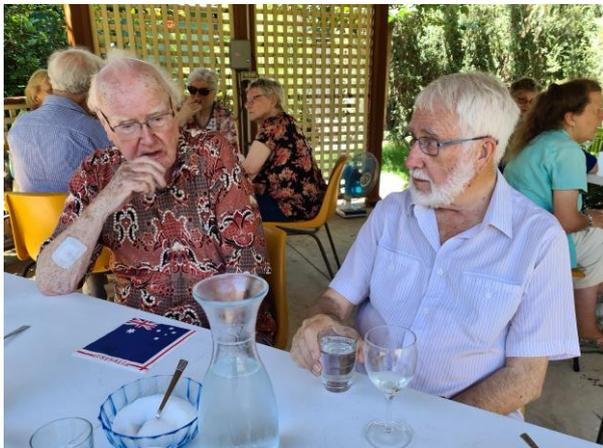
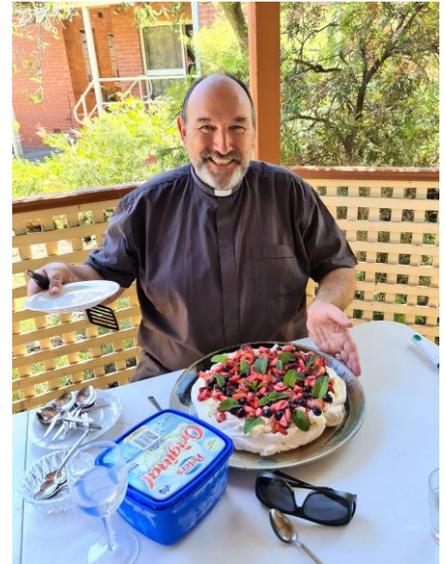
Embroiderer, Angie Fox

During the service, the gathering (after some coaching) joined together in saying *The Lord's Prayer* (in Welsh). We also heard a recording of the *Lord's Prayer* (in Welsh) from **Astrid Lane** (Fr Michael's daughter who currently works in Canberra, and who taught herself Welsh when she was in her early teens). Astrid's beautiful rendition of the prayer was much appreciated by all present. After the final (traditional} WDP hymn 'The Day you gave us, Lord has Ended' people adjourned to the hall for a chat over supper.

The Church of the Good Shepherd was well represented at the service. If you look hard you may be able to recognise some faces behind the masks(!)



Next year's World Day of Prayer will be written by the women of **Taiwan**, on the theme: "I have heard about your faith" (Ephesians 1:15).



AUSTRALIA DAY, Wednesday 26th January 2022

After the 10 o'clock service on Wednesday 26.1.22, a group of parishioners enjoyed a leisurely *Australia Day* lunch in the gazebo in the Quiet Garden. The sausage sizzle (followed by one of Fr Michael's amazing pavlovas) was a welcome opportunity for some relaxation and camaraderie in a tranquil setting.

AROUND THE PARISH



Lighting 3rd advent candle



After the Advent 4 Service on 12th December, parishioners were treated to some delicious cupcakes (in place of the COVID cancelled Christmas party)



CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Friday 24th December 2021



COFFEE MACHINE: Last year my son Timothy and I were having a conversation, and quite often it is regarding coffee, about which we share a common interest. I offered to buy one of his coffee machines for the church. He has a few, mostly commercial machines, which he's bought and refurbished. Anyway, later in the year the conversation came up again and I think, in frustration, he offered to donate one - but I had to go and get it and he lives in Moe, two hours the other side of Melbourne. When we were over there last Christmas we talked about it yet again - and lo and behold we came home with a very large and expensive domestic coffee machine and bean grinder, with a lot of other accessories to boot. (pictured at left.) I am very proud of our son, who is a very generous



person. I think the coffee machine has gone down quite well at morning teatime after church. Now all I have to do is train someone else to work the machine, so I am able to enjoy the coffee, conversation and a catch-up in the hall myself(!) **"As a parish, we say" thank you Timothy for your very generous gift**". (Timothy was sent a letter of thanks from the parish, which he appreciated.)

Marilyn Owen

3 YEARS DOWN THE TRACK



In Easter 2022, it will be 3 years since landscaping of the area at the front of the church and hall was commenced, which has certainly transformed the look of our parish buildings as the native Australian plantings flourish in this setting.

It has also been rewarding to see the "fruit" of Fr Michael's labours literally appearing on the apple and pear trees he planted alongside the northern wall of the church



AROUND THE PARISH cont'd

What is this man doing?



Cooking pancakes (!)

On Tuesday 1st March, Fr Michael Lane donned his cook's apron (yet again) and joined the team cooking and serving pancakes for parishioners to mark *Shrove Tuesday*.

Those lucky enough to be present enjoyed a plate of 2 delicious pancakes with lemon and sugar, and strawberries and cream

SHROVE TUESDAY immediately precedes *Ash Wednesday* and falls on the Tuesday before the beginning of LENT – a period of six weeks leading up to Easter.

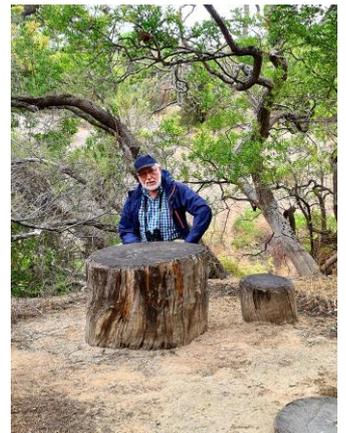
During Lent, Christians reflect on the time Jesus went into the desert for 40 days, to fast and pray, and they traditionally abstain from treats or indulgences.



Fran Kerwin and Fr Michael at morning tea following the 5th Sunday after Epiphany Service (also Fran's birthday!)



On the **Fourth Sunday in Lent** (27th March 2022, also **Mothering Sunday**) Rev Tracey Gracey thanked *Isobel Varcoe* for making the Simnel Cake, which she handed out to parishioners after the service. Rev Tracy who acted as locum whilst Fr Michael was on leave, received her customary warm welcome from an appreciative parish.



In March 2022, CHOGS parishioners Chris and Harold Bates-Brownsword spent a few days on Kangaroo Island with friends from interstate they've not seen for 2-3 years due to Covid restrictions. The holiday house was situated at American River, opposite Pelican Lagoon. Lovely views at dusk, with numerous black swans gliding across the lake. It was heartening to see greenery dotting the tree trunks and to hear birdlife, as the island recovers from the disastrous 2020 fires.



The Fifth Sunday in Lent 3rd April 2022



At the final Sunday in Lent service, the Gospel reading (according to John), tells the story of **Mary anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume, and wiping them with her hair**. Whilst this is a familiar story to most churchgoers, Reverend Tracey Gracey's thoughtful sermon prompted us to look more deeply at the significance of this seemingly simple act. It was six days before the Passover (or Last Supper) the final meal that Jesus would share with his disciples before his crucifixion. A celebratory dinner was taking place in the small village of Bethany at the home of Lazarus (brother to Martha and Mary) whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Rev Gracey reminded us that whilst the dinner might simply be seen as a gift to Jesus for restoring Lazarus to his family, there were other elements at play, especially in relation to Mary, who took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, usually kept for burial purposes, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair, filling the house with the perfume's fragrance. When Judas Iscariot (a known thief) reprimanded Mary and asked why the perfume had been used thus and not been sold for 300 denarii and the money given to the poor, Jesus uttered his famous words: "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." A deeper look at this story sees the perfume as Mary's gift to Jesus, not only for Lazarus, but her realisation that Jesus was about to die, part of a divine plan to save humanity – and probably more than anyone else present, she truly understood the journey ahead to the cross.

At the end of the sermon, Rev Gracey read us the following poem:

Mary at Jesus' Feet by Canadian poet Doug Blair

I cannot beat the trails
Or trim the wind-taut sails
Or pitch a camp beside the dusty road.
I cannot tame the crowd,
Or reprimand the proud,
Or offer Strength to bear your heavy load

I have a woman's heart,
And play a woman's part,
Attending to the tasks of house and fare.
I hunger for some way,
Some gesture just to say,
I love you Jesus, and I truly care.

You've shown us so much life
And spared us all your strife,
Retreating from our home to pour your heart
Out in the hills of prayer
To meet your Father there
To gain his strength before you must depart

I grieved your love before,
When you had planned much more
Than simply curing Lazarus' ill-health.
I wept that you came late,
That you would hesitate,
But you were bringing resurrection wealth!

And here we are again
At table with you, friend,
And I can sense the heaviness of sin
Weighs doubly on you now,
As you reflect on how
The final ministry will soon begin.

The ointment in my hand,
A rare and precious brand,
Seems all I have right now of worth to share.
And so I wash your feet
With fragrance rich and sweet.
And wipe them clean and dry with my long hair.

I know this is not waste,
Though Judas jeers with haste:
"The money could have gone to feed the poor!"
But you have read my heart,
My urge to play some part
In love's anointing ere you reach death's door.

Again, I'm at your side,
While others harp and chide:
"There's much work to be done, no time to rest."
But here your eyes meet mine
In fellowship divine,
Assuring that in this I share your best!

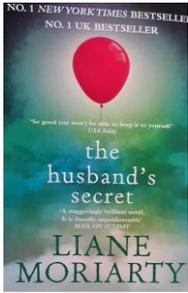


(At left): After the Wednesday am service on 30.3.22, attendees had morning tea and a chat with CHOGS parishioners *Chris & Harold BB* and *Susan Smith* who took a break from their work in the church garden that day. *Marilyn Owen* manned the coffee machine - again(!)

(At right): "**Queensland rain gauge**" picture sent by Southeast Queensland resident during recent floods(!)



BOOK REVIEW



The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty, Pan MacMillan Australia

Have I ever told you that I once spent three hours being questioned by the East German police at *Checkpoint Charlie*? I probably looked like a spy – dark grey overcoat with collar turned up, dark hat, thick scarf, beard grown on the 5-week journey by ship and train to Berlin to visit a workmate's family who lived in West Berlin. It was the right sort of day to be a spy. Freezing cold, ice on the streets and fresh snowfall, the sun hidden by dark clouds. I was travelling alone in a strange world, looking very German, with blue eyes and blond hair, but unable to speak the language other than to order a cup of coffee, or buy bus tickets!

I was reminded of this incident when reading *Liane Moriarty's* book about the husband's secret, which opens with a discussion between Cecilia and her daughter about who built the Berlin Wall and when it was demolished. Cecilia has a piece of the wall as a souvenir from her overseas adventures with a friend, in their early twenties. Cecilia is now a suburban mum with a thriving Tupperware business, three teenaged daughters, and a husband who travels on business, whilst living with claustrophobia. Cecilia is also one of those women who can run a business and a household, and be a contributor to her community and church without seeming to raise a sweat. She likes her life as it is and doesn't want it to be extraordinary. She likes order and efficiency, and to know what is ahead for her.

Cecilia has had her wish fulfilled, until one of her daughters asks her about the Berlin Wall and Cecilia sets out to find her souvenir which is in one of the labelled boxes in the attic.

The story revolves around what else she accidentally finds during her search, which, like Pandora's box leads to many other stories being told with the remarkable facility that *Liane Moriarty* has for relating stories about everyday life, in both humorous and serious ways. She addresses myriad significant issues in society in a way that challenges the problems and explains the various dilemmas in resolving them - which leaves the reader wondering what choices they might make in the same position.

As an aside, if you want to read an amusing explanation of Pandora's Box, which was not a box but a jar, *Moriarty* gives one at the beginning of the book. Appropriately, for this Easter issue of The LINK, the book is set at Eastertide.

Harold Bates-Brownsword



Grandparents Day at Suncoast Christian School on the Sunshine Coast

Ex CHOGS parishioners *Andrew and Naomi Clasohm*, live in Woombye on Queensland's Sunshine Coast with their sons Tristan (aged 14) and Nicholas (7). Mum, Naomi, who is a drama teacher at *Suncoast Christian School*, is very involved in school productions, as well as running a business (together with husband Andrew), called "*Acting Up Youth Theatre Academy*", which offers Acting, Drama and Musical Theatre classes for children and young adults. Andrew's mum Mary Clasohm, and Naomi's parents, Harold and Chris Bates-Brownsword, have enjoyed great family reunions and some wonderful productions when they have been able to travel to the Sunshine Coast, but the tyranny of distance (not to mention covid) doesn't allow this to happen as often as they'd like.

One of the events Tristan and Nicholas miss is not having grandparents at the school's annual *Grandparents Day*. So, this year, Andrew and Naomi decided their kids would not miss out. Without telling anyone else, their students included, they dressed up as Grandpa and Grandma and attended the event. They also rounded up all the kids who did not have grandparents there and acted as their grandparents for the day. The kids had a ball. Andrew was wearing *Ghostbuster* shoes and when one of the kids asked about them, he said their grandchildren gave them to him(!)



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EASTER SERVICES 2022

HOLY WEEK 2022

10.00 am Monday 11th April Morning Prayer
5.30 pm Tuesday 12th April Evening Prayer
4.45 pm Wednesday 13th April Evening Prayer

MAUNDY THURSDAY 14th April

7.00 pm Washing of the Feet and Institution of the Eucharist

GOOD FRIDAY 15th April

9.00 am Solemn Liturgy:
The Passion and Death of the Lord.

10.30 am Stations of the Cross.

EASTER DAY Sunday 17th April

6.00 am *Dawn Service*: The Great Easter Vigil Service of Light: *Held in the Garden, this service includes Lighting of the New Fire, and Breakfast.*

9.00 am Easter Celebratory Eucharist: Renewal of Baptismal Promises



On Sunday 23rd January 2022 after the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Service, I noticed this beauty blooming in the new garden at the front of the church hall. My immediate reaction was “wow” – and indeed that is the name of this grevillea – “*Orange Wow*” to give it its full title. It is one of the grafted grevilleas obtained from Richard Tomkin who lives in Gin Gin in Queensland. I have never grown this variety before, so it is rewarding to see it thriving in this sunny spot.

Chris Bates-Brownsword



This particular weekend was also memorable for the record-breaking rainfall Adelaide received as a result of the Tongan cyclone (heaviest since 1946), including widespread flooding in SA's outback areas. Two months later, major flooding occurred in Queensland and New South Wales.

If you have enjoyed reading this issue of *The LINK* and would like to catch up with past editions of our Newsletter, you are welcome to do so by visiting *The Church of the Good Shepherd* website listed at the top of this page.