

June 2017



Cherry Church

An Active Witness to Jesus Christ in Cherry Gardens

Newsletter

Welcome to the June 2017 edition of our Monthly Newsletter. It is our prayer that this publication will provide news of the Cherry Church along with information about the many activities and events in the life of the small but vibrant congregation of the Cherry Gardens Uniting Church.

This Church has been a place of constant Christian worship and witness since the first service took place back in March 1849. As current members of the congregation we are committed to maintaining a place of worship and an outreach within the local Cherry Gardens community.

From the Pastor:

A Gift to Share

When we receive blessings from the Lord, they are not for our use alone, but are meant to be shared with those around us. God has given each of us various gifts - we do not all have the same talents or abilities, but we have all been given the same ability to be faithful.

As we share these God-given abilities, we do not do it in our own strength: "The one (God) who calls you is faithful, and he will do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

*"Lord, give me the gift of faith,
to be renewed and shared with others each day.
Teach me to live this moment only,
looking neither to the past with regret,
nor the future with apprehension.
Let love be my aim
and my life a prayer."*

(Roseann Alexander-Isham)

**With God's richest blessings,
Margaret**

CHERRY GARDENS UNITING CHURCH - 87 HICKS HILL RD. CHERRY GARDENS

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News around the Church

We have let the contract to construct and install a portico over the western door of the Gallery. The main purpose of this is to prevent water coming through the gap at the top of the door.

The Garden Club recently had a working bee at the church. They achieved many tasks, for which we are indebted, including replacing the lavender bushes along the path to the church and planting some begonias. They also tidied up the garden and sprayed weeds. We are indeed very fortunate to have the support and generosity of the Garden Club. We remain very grateful for their continuing effort. Thank you again, Garden Club.

Mowing the lawns around our church requires quite some time and considerable effort and I have engaged Richard Watson, a garden and maintenance contractor, to undertake this task on our behalf. He has generously mowed the lawns twice without accepting payment, even though I contracted him to do so. He says he has fallen in love with the church, headstones and garden. Thank you Richard.

We have a request from the Jacobs family to temporarily erect a shed over their grave to protect the fence. The fence, being historic, needs to be preserved.

Alan Dubé Chair, Congregational Council

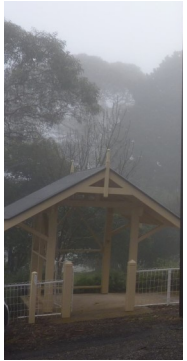


Photo courtesy Church Facebook page

Some thoughts to consider at our forthcoming Congregational Meeting

One of our church's main goals is to reach out into our local community in witness of the life-saving love of Jesus Christ. We have many outreach activities some more obvious than others but all important. For example hosting the annual Cherry Gardens Community Carols; supporting the Anzac Service and breakfast; contributing to the "Cherry Chatter"; and hosting the Garden Club.

An obvious highlight of our past year's activities was the 2016 Community Carols. It was fantastic to see the hall overflowing and with some people getting folding chairs so they could have a seat! Other important outreach activities include our Easter and Christmas services along with weddings, funerals, history group - even our weekly worship services where our doors are open to everyone.

Maintaining an outward-looking approach and service is a vital part of church commitment and of our role as a valuable corporate body within the community. With each one's continuing diligence, support and prayers - and in trusting in God's leadership - the Cherry Church will continue to a relevant and important part of the Cherry Gardens community.

Alan Dubé Chair, Congregational Council

Let Us Pray

Lord, we bring to you our prayers for others. We pray for those in our own church family, as well as others known to us personally. We pray especially for :- the needs of Alan & Prim Dubé as Alan continues his recovery from heart surgery and his care of Prim. We remember Ralph Stephens as he recovers from recent eye surgery and pray that he will not lose more sight. We hold Alex McFarlane before You as he has had numerous setbacks waiting for his knee-replacement surgery and we ask you Lord to give him strength and patience as he waits surgery and the promised relief from pain. We continue to pray for Laurel and Bill Jared (from Clarendon) as they struggle to come to terms with the enormity of the loss of their house and possessions in a fire. We pray for their strength and resilience in the days and weeks ahead. We bring before you the needs of John & Elaine Penberthy as John recovers from his recent heart attack and resulting heart surgery. We also remember Margaret Bennett as she recovers from time in hospital with heart problems. Lord, we pray for these people - along with others who are in need and known to us personally. We ask that You will be with them and comfort them in their time - and their families - in their time of need.

Help us to stay vigilant to the needs of others at all times; and to be prepared and ready to help when called upon. As the people of the Cherry Gardens Uniting Church we pray that you will continue to give us the inspiration, guidance and strength to do your will here in this place - and beyond. Amen

About Those Words

For The Beauty of the Earth


The words to this hymn were written in 1864 by Folliott Pierpoint, who was born in 1835 in the lovely spa town of Bath, England. He was educated at Queens' College, Cambridge and became a classics schoolmaster at Somersetshire College. He spent most of his rather leisurely life in and around Bath and the south-west of England. It is thought that the loveliness of the area around his home town inspired Pierpoint to write this hymn. While he wrote other hymns and poetry, it is only for this hymn that we remember him today.

While we would be inclined to classify "*For the Beauty of the Earth*" as a hymn of thanksgiving or praise, Pierpoint wrote it originally as a Eucharistic hymn. He ended the refrain with these words, which reflect the idea of Holy Communion as a sacrifice:

Christ our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

The hymn praises God for a host of beauties - things that we encounter in everyday living, but often fail to appreciate - the beauty of the earth and skies, the beauty of each hour, the joy of ear and eye, and the joy of human love. It also expresses thanksgiving for the church - and for Christ.

As you read of this hymn, set yourself the goal to be more intentional about seeing and appreciating the many beauties and joys that God has placed at our disposal.



*For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the Love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise
This our Sacrifice of Praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise
This our Sacrifice of Praise.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Sunday 4th June

Our own Pastor **Margaret Seyfang** will lead our worship today as we share the Gospel message through hymns. We will share Holy Communion together.

Sunday 11th June

We welcome **Paul Crayton** from the Clarendon Uniting Church to lead the morning's worship.

Sunday 18th June

Max Winter leads our worship with his insights into the Good News.

Sunday 18th June - Ironbank Faith Community

After a 6pm shared-meal we worship together at the 7pm service with **Tony and Jill Lohmeyer**, who serve with Missionary Aviation Fellowship, and are home after 2 years in Mongolia.

Sunday 25th June

We welcome back **Malcolm Uren** (from Seeds - Aberfoyle Uniting Church) to lead our worship service.

SOME MORE DATES TO PUT IN THE DIARY

Sun 25th June. **Our Church AGM.** This is a very important meeting in the life of our church. Please keep this meeting in your prayers.

Sun 24th Sept. **Community Hymn Singing**, The Vines UC, Woodcroft

Tues 19th Dec. **Community Carols**, Cherry Gardens Memorial Hall

DATES FOR THE SOCAL CALENDAR

Sat 24th June: Cherry Gardens Community Mid-Year Dinner at the Cherry Gardens Memorial Hall; organised by the Hall Committee; all welcome. For further details and tickets, please contact Terry Whittle, phone: 0414 824 110.



There was a minister who had rectly had all of his teeth extracted and new dentures made. On the first Sunday after his teeth were extracted he only preached 10 minutes. On the second Sunday, he preached for only 20 minutes. But, on the third Sunday, he preached for 1 hour and 25 minutes.

Some of the congregation were confused and asked him why. He answered telling them, "On the first Sunday, my gums were so sore it hurt to talk. On the second Sunday, my new dentures were hurting a lot and it was uncomfortable to talk. On the third Sunday, I accidentally grabbed my wife's dentures... and I couldn't stop talking!"

Contact Details

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