

The Link



October 2017



Thornleigh Hillcrest
Uniting Church Newsletter

To be faithful

I came across a very touching article on the internet a couple of months ago. It was about a man who had planted a tree every day for 37 years.

When the young teenager Jadav Molai saw his hometown in India become increasingly a sandy desert with trees being cut down, he decided to do something. He started planting a tree every day. His dream was to create a habitat for wildlife and oppose those people who were recklessly cutting down trees.

He planted seeds for 37 years and has built a thick forest of a size of 1,360 acres. (For comparison, the Opera House building covers 4.4 acres.) Nobody was interested in his dream. Nobody helped with his plan. People thought that nothing would grow in those areas. But he began planting a tree every day and it continued for the next 37 years. Jadav is now 47 years old. His forest is the home to over 115 elephants and a number of wildlife animals, including two tigers.

The story reminds me of one of the most frequent descriptions about God in the Bible. It is faithfulness and Scripture uses the term to describe who God is. One thing we learn about God again and again is that he is 'faithful' always. When God says he will do something, he always does it, no matter how long it takes. 1 King 8:56 says that 'not one word has failed of all the good promises the Lord gave.' This gives us a firm basis on which to believe that God is always reliable. In his faithfulness, God loves us, protects us and keeps all the good promises he's made with us.

To say that God is faithful requires us to be equally faithful in our relationship with Him. It is because a promise is always between two parties. In our Christian journey, it is between God and us.

In the internet article, Jadav concluded his interview by saying, "I will continue to plant until my last breath." That is what exactly Jesus did during his last moment on his cross two thousand years ago. He loved us until his last breath.

Faithfulness is a central part of who God is to us as well as who we are to Him. God is eternally faithful and so trustworthy.

Rev Hugh Park

Ed Note: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jadav_Payeng

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkZDSqyE1do>

THANK YOU from ASHLEIGH LODGE

On Sunday 24th September Rev Dr Phil Paul, the Chaplain from Ashleigh Lodge ,Thornleigh, and his wife, Lenette, came to the service to thank THUC for its long association with the residents and staff and the faithfulness of members in conducting monthly services for the residents. This association has extended over 50 years.

Rev Paul then delivered the message, " Growing through Adversity".

As a small thank you, a Certificate of Recognition and a small gift were presented to Norma Chambers, Claire Foulis, Joan Reeve, Bev Dunlop, Jean Homes (accepted by son, Stuart, on her behalf), Rev Alan Lowe, Peter Geary, Helen Whalley, David Richardson, Rev Hugh Park, Roma Ringrose (accepted by Joan on her behalf) and Gill Mein (absent).



Parker Family Update

Hello everyone!

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support. Richard was especially touched by the prayer quilt that he received from the congregation. It has been a real encouragement to have the physical reminder of your prayers close.

We apologise that we have not been able to get to THUC in a long while, and we hope to see you all soon. Richard's road to health will be a long one. After many tests and specialist visits it has been confirmed that he has Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue. He has been attending a Fatigue Clinic in Newtown, where a psychologist and exercise physiologist are giving him advice and tools on how to budget his energy each day. Another symptom of fibromyalgia is digestive issues. But we praise the Lord that Rich is having more good days than bad ones at the moment.

Jonathan recently celebrated his 3rd birthday, and had grommets put in his ears and his adenoids removed soon after that. He has been much healthier since then, and his speech has improved significantly. Andrew has enjoyed his third term at Enfield Public, with his highlights including Book Week and weekly dance lessons with his classmates,

Lindsey will be starting some work with WEC Australia in the fourth term. Please pray that all will come together soon for Jono to attend day care on those days.

Thank you all once again,

The Parkers

Remember in your prayers

Sue & Brian Wilcockson,
Bob and Ruth Parker,
Jean Holmes, Neil Denning,
Angaline & Delwyn Singam,
Allison Woodward, June
McGregor, Richard & Lindsey
Parker & family, Ivy & the
Tregenza family, Sarah
Wilcockson & family, the
Wakefield family and the Broken
Hill Congregation.



*Thanks to
Margaret
Craymer for this
beautiful
arrangement.*



October Birthdays

Jim Mein, Bob Parker, Barry Clark & Cameron Meehan

October EVENTS

Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church

Our regular activities are on page 11

PRAYER TIME: Saturday 7th October at 8.30am - 9.30am in Rosie's Room. An opportunity to join together in prayer for our church, its people, the nation and the world Enquiries: David Richardson

Elders Meeting WEDNESDAY 4th October at 7.30pm in Rosie's Room. All Elders are encouraged to be present.

Worship Committee Meeting MONDAY 16th October at 7.30pm in Rosie's Room. Please come if you wish to participate in planning our services for the next quarter.

Pastoral Care Meeting – Wednesday 11th October at 12.30 pm

The next **Seniors' Luncheon** will be held on **Wednesday, 18th October 2017 at 11.30am** for 12 noon.

Hot Roast Dinner & Dessert.

Wonderful music will be provided by Doug & Sue from the Hornsby Musical Society.

Cost \$10 RSVP **14th October** to Gill Mein 9654 3756 / 0413 493 227
Transport provided.

Sunday Service Rosters

Rosters for November and December 2017 and January 2018 will be prepared soon. If you know of dates when you don't expect to be available for a rostered duty, please let me know as soon as possible.

If you are not currently on a roster and would like to assist, there is a need for **additional** people for the following tasks: arranging flowers, preparing Communion, stewards, money counters, serving morning tea and crèche.

Thank you, *David Richardson*

Coming Events

Market Day is on
SATURDAY
4th November



The Secret Garden, Eastwood Uniting Church Musical Society: 27th October to 11th November. Group booking for Sat 28th October. For full details see Weekly notices or contact Shirley Sharpham.

The Galston Concerts 2017 Series

Galston Uniting Church 11 School Road, Galston

Dates: 22nd October – The Galston Gala - 2.00pm

BOOKINGS: www.trybooking.com (search Galston) Tickets also available at door

ENQUIRIES: 9653 2079 / 0425 339 841

Full details see *The Link* February 2017

Annual Photographic Competition Normanhurst Uniting Church. This year's theme is *How do you see God?* Closing date 5th November 9487 2467
<https://www.normanhurstunitingchurch.org.au/>

Healthy Retirement Expo 5th to 7th October at Beecroft Uniting Church
RSVP 9875 3436 www.beecroftuniting.org

Developments on the Korean Peninsula: Implications for Australia and Our Region The Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Pennant Hills Bowling Club 6.30pm for 7-8pm Pennant Hills RSVP required
sarah.nicholas@aph.gov.au or 9980 1822

Recent Events

CLUSTER GROUP met on Thursday this month. We wanted to see the Discovery Centre at Castle Hill and they weren't open on a Saturday.

We had a great day. We arrived unannounced at the Centre and within half an hour they provided us with a guide who led us through

the exhibits, explained what they were, told us some of the history and generally kept us enthralled with the facilities. Of course a lot of the exhibits, we could remember, and tell our stories too. We then had a quick lunch at the shopping centre across the road before returning home. Picture shows members on an old Sydney tram. (*Editor's note: it seems to be lacking in protection from the weather and seems to be moving :)*)

Next month Claire is investigating a ferry trip, possibly to Manly, and later in the month we will attend the EUCAMS production of "The Secret Garden".
Fred & Robyn King



MINGLES: On Saturday 23rd October our group of ten enjoyed a guided tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.



Wakefield Family Update

Dear Praying Friends,

It is such a great comfort to know we have a "Good, Good, Father" who we can call on at any time, and an army of people to ask for intercession.

Since we arrived back from furlough the security situation in Goroka has been tense. Elections happened over June and July, which never goes smoothly in PNG. However we expected after elections for things to quieten down again, but instead it seems there are some nasty armed gangs in Goroka that are targeting "softer" targets such as hospitals and missions through the night time. We have experienced two very disturbing "break and enter" events over the last month (one with violence) and a third fence cutting last night, and therefore we have been forced to put on guards at all our compounds indefinitely until things calm down.

In PNG the physical and spiritual are very close, and therefore we need support in this aspect of our ministry up here right now. Please pray appropriately for our security and ongoing work under these stressful conditions. God is good, and the work continues, but our energies are being diverted somewhat. I'm sure Nehemiah felt the same (Nehemiah 4:16).

(From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah. NIV)

Blessings from your missionaries in PNG.

Michael, Rachael and Family



Bob Parker being wrapped in love.

Liz, Sue, Bob and Hugh were enjoying the moment so much that a blurry image resulted.

Lovely to see such big smiles.

International Day of Peace Service

This took place at Parramatta UC on Thursday, 21 September, 2017 with about 200 in attendance. It was organized by Rev. Dr. Manas Ghosh, who was the worship leader. Manas acknowledged we were meeting on the Lands of the Barramatugal People of the Darug Nation. This is the fourth time the service has been at Parramatta. In attendance was Hon Julie Owens, MP for Parramatta.

Peta Strong and Kali Less performed an Indigenous Welcome Dance. The Prayer for the First People of Australia was given by Pearl Wymarra. Other prayers were given on behalf of the Armenian Apostolic Church (Nishan Basmajian), Haha'l (Satu Hessar-Amiri), Brahmakumaris (Sr. Margaret Parker), Buddhist (Sr. Thubten Chokyi), Catholic (Very Rev. Fr. Robert Bossini), Hindu (Pandit Jatin Kumar Bhatt), Islam (Neil El-Kadomi), Jain (Bhupinder Jain), Jews (Kati Haworth), Mandaean (Ganzibra Prof. Dr. Brikha H.S. Nasoraia), Sikh (Majinder Singh), Uniting Church (Rev. Keith Hamilton) and Zoroastrian (Dr. Pheroza Daruwalla).

Between the prayers, songs were performed by Atu David (*Amen and You are Worthy*), Amity College, Prestons (*I'm Australian and Friendship*), The Sathya Sai International Org. (*May all the beings in all the Worlds be happy and From Darkness to Light*), Dept. of Human Services Choir (*Listen Carefully and Listen Carefully*) and Circular Keys (*Shelter and I am Australian*). *The Haka* was energetically performed by students from Arthur Phillip HS. A symbolic tree plantation ceremony with songs and dance were performed by Bishwobeena-Harmony with Tagore Inc. A cello solo was given by Evelyn Sanders.

Dr. Gorur Krishna Harith OAM, Chairperson of the NSW Multicultural Advisory Board spoke. Society in NSW is changing; half the population are first or second generation migrants, speaking 215 languages. 52% are Christian and we share many common values; dialogue is important as is leadership development.

The Service concluded with our lighting candles and putting them on the flags of countries we identify with.

Allan West





Important Dates for 2017

Working Bees

30th December

Elders

4th October

Church Council

8th November

Finance and Property Committee

25th October

Congregational Meetings

22nd November (AGM)

Worship Committee

16th October

Market Day

4th November

The Link

Editor Jan Williamson

Please note: Unless otherwise acknowledged the images in this edition were taken by J. Williamson

DEADLINE for *The Link* November Thursday 26th October

December 2017/ January 2018 Saturday 15th November

Please send articles to: link@thornleigh-hillcrestuca.org.au

or hard copy in person to Jan Williamson

Please note **ALL contributions** (420 or less words, & images) must be either original or else be referenced and have copyright approval. If you wish to reproduce another person's writing, the author's permission for publication is required.

Diary Dates 2017

- **KYB** (Know Your Bible) meets at 9.30am each Monday
- **Day Fellowship** normally meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 1 pm, and at other times for outings. [23rd October](#) & [27th November](#)
- **Cluster Group** normally meets on the third Saturday of the month. [21st October](#) & [18th November](#)
- **Mingles Group** normally meets on the fourth Saturday of the month. [28th October](#) & [25th November](#)
- **Men's Woodwork Group** meets on Mondays at 9am at Jim's home.
- **Knitting, Conversation, Coffee and Craft** is on first and third Wednesdays of the month from 1-3pm [4th](#) & [18th October](#)
- **English Conversation Group** meets every Thursday during school terms at 9.30am in the Youth Room
- **Singing Group** meets every Tuesday at 8pm at the church.
- **Prayer Group** meets first Saturday of the month in Rosie's Room 8.30am to 9.30 am [7th October](#)

Church Services

October 2017

Sunday 1 st October	9.30am	Rev Hugh Park	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th October	9.30am	Rev Hugh Park	
Sunday 15 th October	9.30am	Rev Hugh Park/Rev J Jegosothy	Social Justice
Sunday 22 nd October	9.30am	Rev Hugh Park	
Sunday 29 th October	9.30am	Rev Hugh Park	

November 2017

Sunday 5 th November	9.30am	Rev Hugh Park	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th November	9.30am	Rev Hugh Park	