



*We reach up to God, reach in to
one another and reach out to the
community*

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Ramblings. . .



I think it is a universal feeling that this COVID-19 affair has gone on quite long enough and the novelty has quite worn off!! One of the inevitable outcomes of problems and events such as these is that some black humour appears to, at least, bring a bit of a smile to lighten our day.

It has been pointed out that COVID-19 is really serious. The casinos and churches are closed. When hell and heaven agree, it must be pretty serious. One of the standard questions that seems to be asked in job interviews these days is "where do you see yourself in 10 years or 5 years time?" and it has been pointed out that no one asked that question five or ten years ago would have been anywhere near the mark at all.



Here are some things to bring a little smile to your face.

Help is in sight, the vaccines are on their way and we can bring you the first photo of the Russian vaccine.



It was a quiet Tuesday morning in December of 2053. Dave woke up like he often did at this time with a need to use the bathroom. This was no normal day though. This was the day Dave would use the last roll of toilet paper his parents had bought back in the year 2020.

And who has stockpiles of toilet paper?

And how are your social distancing skills?

And a church one to finish with.

But whatever happens, there are always lots of smiles at St. Andrew's on a Sunday (even if they are behind a mask!)



Mummy, am I going to school tomorrow?

No son. It's not safe.



Stephen

PS. Christmas in July has been postponed... to December

It's beginning to feel a bit like Christmas

What? you may ask. Christmas? Is this some belated reference to "Christmas in July"?

No, the title was quite deliberate. Even though we are only at the end of August, much about the remainder of this year is becoming clearer. And that includes beginning to think about Christmas.

Of course I'm not referring to gift buying, menu planning or Christmas cards – although I did heed the warning from Frontier Services to get in early for their excellent cards. Lauris and I now have twelve packets of them awaiting attention later in the year!

What I'm thinking about is what Christmas will look and feel like. We all remember March, when we went into lockdown, and churches were closed throughout Easter. The Minister at Lauris' and my home church, St Stephen's in Macquarie Street, suggested that we would still celebrate Easter this year, in August, when the pandemic would be behind us. Well August has almost come and gone. Many churches remain closed, some, like Brighton, are open, and others did reopen only to close down again when a spike in Covid cases came upon Sydney.

Back in March, I think we were all confident that the pandemic would come and go quickly. Politicians and economists spoke of an economic "bounce-back" as the world rapidly returned to normality, the virus defeated. In retrospect, it's hard to know why we ever thought that, but in any case, everyone is now aware that a rapid return to "normal" was simply never going to happen. We know that this virus is extremely contagious; that for about one-fifth of those who contract it, it can produce a very severe illness and be fatal for a significant number of them; and that, even for asymptomatic people, it can have serious lingering or permanent after-effects. We also know that the virus is very difficult to defeat. Nations which have had imprudent or inconsistent policies have paid a dreadful price, but even nations such as New Zealand, which acted decisively and apparently very effectively right at the outset, have succumbed to renewed cases. "Second waves" have proven to be the norm.

It is now crystal clear that the *only* way we can escape the strictures imposed upon us by being prudent about this pandemic, as individuals, as institutions such as the Church, and as a nation, will be the development of a proven, widely available and affordable vaccine. Except in Russia(!), that remains, on the most optimistic estimates, at least twelve months away. The fact is that we are going to have to keep on living the way we are for a long time yet. That will most certainly include the months leading up to and including Christmas. Hence the enigmatic title of this article. We should be beginning to accept that Christmas 2020 will be – must be – very different. A "careless Christmas" would have the potential to wreak disaster right across the national community.

If Christmas does look different, perhaps it would not be such a bad thing. Of course we would all regret the absence of the usual celebrations – Christmas parties, carols by candlelight, services of lessons and carols, and most particularly, the big family gatherings on Christmas Day. Of course we would! But the message of Christmas is not that God sent his Son into the world to ordain a fortnight of partying, albeit that some of the partying is within the context of worship and the community of faith. The incredible wonder of Christmas is that God sent his son into the world as it really is – into all its pain, all its suffering, all its despair and all its unfairness. The wonder of Christmas is that God reached out to us through his Son, to stand beside us in the world as it really is, with all its desperate ugliness.

We should prepare ourselves for a Christmas which will look and feel very different this year, but the Christ child will still descend into the mire of the human world, in all its ugliness and in all its beauty, in all its despair and in all its hope. And the Christ-child will, as ever, bring the message of God's limitless love for a world which, in 2020 perhaps more than ever, needs to hear the good news that is at the heart of Christmas. As Covid continues to ravage the world, perhaps we will be just a little closer to understanding just what a miracle that is.

Alan Harper OAM

Background and history of St Andrew's

Part 3

The land that is now called Brighton-Le-Sands was the front row on Kamay (<https://www.bl.uk/the-voyages-of-captain-james-cook/articles/an-indigenous-australian-perspective-on-cooks-arrival>) to observe the coming of James Cook and, then, the first fleet. For a while Cook called it Sting-rays Harbour but changed the name to Botany Bay on account of the quantity of plants found by Banks and Solander. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botany_Bay.



The First Fleet monument is located in Brighton Le-Sands, depicting the ships as if seen from the aspect of the local inhabitants.

Much has been said and written about those times and from many aspects. It means many different things to different people. It is well beyond the scope of this background to St.

Andrew's and beyond

the capabilities of this writer, who failed O level (year 10) History, to do justice to all of this. There are certainly lessons still to be learned.

As an aside, in the Wikipedia entry we also read, contrary to what I relayed in Part 2, that the land between the Cooks River and Georges River was Bidjigal land and that the Gameygal/Kameygal land was north of the bay.

In the 2016 census, 63 people in Brighton-Le-Sands were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people

Land in the area began to be acquired in the 1840s but there was no significant development until the railway came to Rockdale. The area between Cooks River and Georges River was known as Seven Mile Beach. In 1874 it was officially renamed Lady Robinson's Beach in honour of the wife of Governor Sir Hercules Rob-

inson. In 1884 the Illawarra Railway reached Rockdale. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brighton-Le-Sands,_New_South_Wales

The history of Brighton-Le-Sands then becomes inextricably linked to the fortunes of Thomas Saywell (1837-1928). Saywell came from a lace making family in Nottingham. The decline of the lace trade made them move to France, where Thomas was educated, and then to Australia in 1848. From 1863 he prospered as a tobacconist and then invested in coal mining and brick production. In the early 1880s Saywell foresaw that the Illawarra railway would create new suburbs in the sparsely settled area south of Cooks River. He bought land at Lady Robinson's Beach and built the fashionable New Brighton Hotel, a public bathing enclosure described as 'the best in Australia' but segregated, and other amenities including a racecourse. He planned to create a model suburb and seaside resort for working-class families. In 1884 Saywell's Tramway Act granted him a thirty-year franchise for a private tramway from Lady Robinson's Beach to Rockdale railway station. On his suggestion the new suburb was named Brighton-le-Sands and he lived here for many years. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/saywell-thomas-4540>

This may be the moment to raise the issue (that caused a little friction at St Andrew's a while back) of the correct spelling. You may note that there is a lower case "l" in the previous paragraph. This is as Saywell named it. The French influence may well have been due to his early upbringing in France. In 1970 the name was officially changed to the upper case with the hyphens. However, the various forms still persist

Saywell built the New Brighton Hotel, now the site of the Novotel. In 1892 the hotel lost its licence, due to the behaviour of its clientele. This led to the first connection of the Presbyterian Church and Brighton. At the instigation of Arthur Aspinall, the Presbyterian Church was looking for a building suitable to establish a boarding school for the children of outback pastoralists. Thomas Saywell offered the use of the hotel to the Church for the establishment of The Scots College. Arthur Aspinall, a co-founder of the College, became its first principal. Suitable changes were made to the building to adapt it as a boarding school. The school remained at Brighton for about four years. The Scots College found the racecourse and the distraction of the beach for its pupils unacceptable and left the area. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Brighton-Le-Sands, New South Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Brighton-Le_Sands,_New_South_Wales)

Reverend Arthur Ashworth Aspinall opened The Scots College in 1893 as the founding Principal and owner. Aspinall was ordained as a Presbyterian Minister 1873 in Forbes. His social contacts were farmers (graziers) who would later send their sons to Scots. He graduated from the University of Sydney in 1889 with a Bachelor of Arts. The first Headmaster was John Fraser McManamey (1865-1946) who served The Scots College between 1893 and 1894. Sir Henry Parkes was the guest at the first Speech Day in 1893. Italian artist Dattilo Rubbo started as an art master and later painted Aspinall's portrait, before staying at Scots for 38 years. <https://www.tsc.nsw.edu.au/arthur-aspinall>

In 2018, Scots College opened its preparatory school in the historic Primrose House in Dolls Point. As an acknowledgement to the College's origins in Brighton, it is named Brighton Preparatory School. <https://www.tsc.nsw.edu.au/brighton>

Primrose House – an aside

The house was built in 1891 as the Scar-

borough Hotel in the Sans Souci Pleasure Grounds. Its history varies depending on the information source but after losing its liquor licence in 1893, it became a private club. From 1913 or 1919 it was a Red Cross hospital for war wounded. In 1921 it was bought to become a Dr Barnardos Home to house orphans and abandoned children. In 1926 as Corrimal Hall, it became a private club and dining room. In 1930 for two years, Christ Church St Laurence opened a private boys school. In 1936 it was bought by St. George District Hospital and renamed Primrose House after chairman and solicitor Herman B. Primrose. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2330007> <https://sydney-city.blogspot.com/2019/05/dolls-point-primrose-house.html>. <https://www.theleader.com.au/story/5969366/primrose-house-a-lesson-in-honouring-the-past-while-preparing-for-the-future/> <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/today-in-history/the-failed-luxury-hotel-primrose-house-housed-a-future-premier-and-anzac-veterans-and-quite-possibly-was-a-house-of-ill-repute/news-story/751e1fe3fc5674c3ca9c2f81e1067478>

The area was served by a tramline from Kogarah station until 1937, being replaced by a trolley bus.

Over the years, the house was subject to many unsympathetic additions and changes. In August 2010 it was listed as historically significant, but this does not seem to protect it from demolition. So the contribution of Scots College in saving Primrose House should not be underestimated.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2330007>

It, perhaps, highlights the parlous state of Saywell's Terrace



on the corner of Princess Street and Grand Parade.

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/5519351/photos-historic-terrace-site-upsized/>

Our Outreach

St Andrew's supports these activities, in particular

COOK MOOREFIELD COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Supporting Nick's ministry at these schools. Financial donations (tax deductible) to Alison.

NICK'S BREAKFAST CLUB AT JAMES COOK HIGH

(Please bring cereals (not Weetbix) and long-life milk.

THE KOGARAH STOREHOUSE FOOD MINISTRY

The Storehouse is distributing food parcels on Wednesdays and still needs food donations.

<http://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/>



LACLA-LET THE AFRICAN CHILDREN LEARN ASSOCIATION

Carry on collecting your 5 cent pieces for donation. Or, in these days of contact-less payments, leave a donation.



SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org.au/get-involved/ways-to-give/>



ACT FOR PEACE CHRISTMAS BOWL

<https://www.actforpeace.org.au/Learn/Why-we-are-here>





Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child 2020

As you all know, our Craft Group fills boxes for the Operation Christmas Child and they are sent to various destinations around the south Pacific and Asia. But it is not all that Samaritan's Purse does. In a recent newsletter they told us about the work that they do in Cambodia, particularly in schools. They have built dozens of schools and have developed a literacy programme that they call "We Can Read and Write". In addition to providing teaching materials, they train staff so that they can teach the students better. They are trained in teaching methods, lesson planning, classroom management and how to use teaching toolkits. Students have become much more interested and attendance has improved.

Samaritan's Purse (Australian and New Zealand office) also has life-changing projects in countries like Vietnam, Mongolia and the Philippines as well as Cambodia.

Please continue to support Samaritan's Purse with your prayers - especially for the project mentioned above.



Alison Dain

Prayer Points

The mission and ministry of our congregation.

Worship leaders, preachers, musicians, readers, helpers, leaders, followers.

Those affected by COVID-19, their carers and families. Those who have lost loved ones.

Those still feeling the effects of the bushfire and floods.

Those who are sick, sad or lonely

The people of Beirut.

Our own people especially Carolyn and Dennis Gates, Ruth Bird and the Gaitau family.

Timothy Dain, foot surgery after a work accident. Back at work.

To raise up people to work within St. Andrew's. Alan and Lauris Harper.

If you need pastoral care or know of someone needing pastoral care, please see the contact details in the side panel on the first page. If you wish an addition to this list, please contact Stephen Dain.

ROSTERS

September and October

Please arrange substitutes when you are not able to do your allocated time.

Communion Sundays—someone please bring bread

Date Sept	Colour	Preacher	Worship Leader	Musician	Bible Reader	Welcomer	Projector	Open close + Communion	Morning tea	God's Gang
06		Alan Harper <i>(Visiting lay preacher)</i>	Alan Harper	Alison & Marques	Arinona	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Gordon	Dennis + Schofield Family	Pam & Talafu	Shirley & Terangi
13		Alan Harper <i>(Visiting lay preacher)</i>	Alan Harper	Alison & Arinona	Carolyn	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Shirley		Alison & Terangi	Children in church
20		Philip Mathews <i>(Visiting lay preacher)</i>	Philip Mathews	Alison & Marques	Terangi	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Komiti/Ese		Carolyn & Gordon	Shirley & helper
27		HC Rev Dr Hawea Jackson	Rev Dr Hawea Jackson	Alison & Arinona	Alison	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Stephen & Dennis		Talafu & Arinona	Charles & Pam

Date Oct	Colour	Preacher	Worship Leader	Musician	Bible Reader	Welcomer	Projector	Open close + Communion	Morning tea	God's Gang
04		Alan Harper <i>(Visiting lay preacher)</i>	Alan Harper	Alison & Marques	Gordon	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Ese	Dennis + Dain Family	Pam & Charles	Shirley & Terangi
11	White Sunday	Youth/Sunday school	Ese Enari	Arinona, Marques, Komiti, Sara-Belle	Youth/Sunday school	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Gordon		All parents	Children in church
18		Meleane Siuhengalu <i>(Visiting lay preacher)</i>	Meleane Siuhengalu	Alison & Marques	Carolyn	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Stephen & Dennis		Terangi & Carolyn	Shirley & helper
25		HC Rev David Cox		Alison & Arinona	Mere/Siunipa	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Gordon		Ese & Marques	Children in church