



## THE OPEN DOOR MAGAZINE

**October 2025**



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# The Vicar's Message

It's that time of year again — time to turn the clocks (if you still own clocks) and spring forward.

I never knew whether we were losing an hour or gaining an hour until I learned the expression, "spring forward; fall back."

I got excited about gaining an hour last April - I got excited to sleep an extra hour...Falling back is easy for me, but springing forward is tough.



In a world where we are mostly overcommitted and have very little margin in time, many of us struggle with springing forward. What do you mean we lose an hour of our lives!!? But alas, that time is upon us yet again. On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October, we'll turn our clocks forward and lose an hour of sleep, productivity, or fun.

I wonder if I'm the only one who struggles with losing an hour. Time is so precious. This is perhaps why God tells his people to make the best use of the time: *'Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil.'* (Eph. 5:15-16).

In the context of his letter to the Ephesian church, Paul is calling people to stop wasting time harming one another, being selfish, deceiving other people, and taking advantage of others. We don't have time for that (we're losing an hour!)

Instead, *.....be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*' (Eph. 5:1-2).

This is what we as Christian today are asked to do. To engage in activities that build one another up. Serve people; help them thrive in life — even when it comes at a cost, because that's the example Jesus left for us.

Time is precious. There's no time to waste.  
Use it wisely as you spring forward.

With every blessing  
Fr Stephen

## **St Francis of Assisi**

**Feast day – October 4th**



Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182. He grew up leading a privileged life as the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. Francis loved to learn and sing songs as a boy. His father wanted him to become a businessman and taught him about the French culture.

When he was around the age of nineteen he went to battle against the nearby town of Perugia. Francis was captured and taken prisoner. He was held prisoner in a dungeon for a year before his father paid the ransom

and he was set free.

Over the next few years Francis began to see visions from God that changed his life. The first vision was when he was sick with a high fever. At first he thought that God had called him to fight in the Crusades. However, he had another vision that told him to help the sick. Finally, when praying in a church, Francis heard God tell him to "repair my church, which is falling in ruins." Francis gave all his money to the church. His father became very angry with him. Francis then left his father's home and took a vow of poverty.

As Francis lived his life of poverty and preached to people about the life of Jesus, people began to follow him. By 1209, he had around 11 followers. He had one basic rule which was "To follow the teachings of Jesus and to walk in his footsteps". Francis was a devoted follower of the Catholic Church. He and his followers traveled to Rome to get the approval for their religious Order from the pope. At first the pope was reluctant. These men were dirty, poor, and smelled bad. However, eventually he understood their vow of poverty and blessed the Order. The Franciscan Order grew as men joined and made vows of poverty.

Francis was known for his love of nature and animals. There are many stories about Saint Francis and his preaching to animals. It's said that one day he was talking to some birds when they began to sing together. Then they flew into the sky and formed the sign of a cross. It was also said that Francis could tame wild animals. One story tells of a vicious wolf in the town of Gubbio that was killing people and sheep. The people of the town were frightened and didn't know what to do. Francis went to the town to confront the wolf. At first the wolf growled at Francis and prepared to attack him. However, Francis made the sign of the cross and told the wolf not to hurt anyone else. The wolf then became tame and the town was safe.

Francis became ill and spent the last few years of his life mostly blind. He died in 1226 while singing Psalm 141. He was declared a saint of the Catholic Church only two years after his death.

## **St Luke the Apostle**

**Feast Day - October 18<sup>th</sup>**



Saint Luke lived in the First Century A.D. He was a physician and a companion to Saint Paul (*with whom he travelled and preached*) and Christian historian.

Luke was the author of the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel According to Luke (*sometimes referred to as the "Third Gospel"*). It's thought that Luke may have been a native of Antioch in Syria, but Greek in birth and education. Some authorities believe he may have been a Roman citizen.

When Luke met Paul, he had already converted to Christianity. Luke learned much about Jesus and Christianity from Paul and soon became well-versed in Jewish history and customs. He wrote his gospel around 60 AD and composed the Book of Acts around three years later. For his gospel account, Luke garnered his information from eye-witnesses and documents.

Since Luke is believed to have been with Paul when Paul was imprisoned at Rome, it appears likely that he would have met the apostles and disciples, and would have been aware of the gospels written by Mark and

Matthew. It's widely held that one of the people Luke interviewed... perhaps at greater length than any other witness... may have been Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ.

Luke travelled with Paul on visits to Antioch, Caesarea and Jerusalem. While Paul was detained in Caesarea for two years, Luke began to put together a history of Christianity. During Paul's first imprisonment at Rome, Luke completed his two-volume history.

Shortly after he reached the age of 50, Luke accompanied Paul on the second missionary journey and, at approximately 57 years of age, he joined Paul again at Philippi to embark upon a third voyage, completing the trip in Jerusalem.

Luke, referred to by Paul as the "Beloved Physician," has rightly been called the first Christian historian. He was the only Gentile (*non-Jewish*) writer of the New Testament. In contrast to either the gospels of Mark or Matthew, Luke's gospel is clearly written more for a gentile audience.

## **Saint Simon and Jude**

**Feast Day – 28<sup>th</sup> October**



Jude is so named by Luke and Acts. Matthew and Mark call him Thaddeus. He's not mentioned elsewhere in the Gospels, except of course where all the apostles are mentioned. Scholars hold that he is not the author of the Letter of Jude. Actually, Jude had the same name as Judas Iscariot. Evidently because of the disgrace of that name, it was shortened to "Jude" in English.

Simon is mentioned on all four lists of the apostles. In two of them he's called "the Zealot." The Zealots were a Jewish sect that represented an extreme of Jewish nationalism. For them, the messianic promise of the Old Testament meant that the Jews were to be a free and independent nation. God alone was their king, and any payment of taxes to the Romans—the very domination of the Romans—was a blasphemy against God.



# SERVICE TIMES

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## October 2025

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>10am Combined Service</b>
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>8am Said Eucharist 9am Contemporary Eucharist 10.30am Sung Eucharist</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>8am Said Eucharist 9am Contemporary Eucharist 10.30am Sung Eucharist</b>
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>8am Said Eucharist 9am Contemporary Eucharist 10.30am Sung Eucharist</b>
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<b>All Saints Sunday 10am Combined Service</b>

**Meditation Thursday 8 – 8.45am.**

**Mid-week Eucharist Wednesday 10am.**

# Sister Ethel May Gillingham

By Stephen Yewdall

“The WW1 Honour Board located within All Saints Church Newtown lists 6 nurses. Very few honour boards recognise these courageous women, so we can be very proud that our forebears took the opportunity to include them. Following is a brief story on one of these nurses - Sister Ethel May Gillingham.



Ethel Gillingham was born on 7 August 1884 to Edward and Henrietta Gillingham of ‘Yeovil’ Shannon Avenue Newtown. Ethel took up nursing as a career, initially training at Colac Hospital and a further one year at Wangaratta Hospital for surgical experience. At the age of 30, Ethel still single, departed for England in July 1914 for a pleasure trip but upon the ship’s arrival in Cairo learned that England on 4 August, had declared war on Germany.

In England, Ethel enlisted with the British Red Cross and served at 3rd Southern General Hospital, Milton Hill, Steventon in Berkshire from October 1914. In April 1915, Ethel answered a call from the Serbian government, then an ally of England to nurse with the Red Cross Serbian Mission in Vrnjacka Banja, initially treating patients suffering from a typhoid epidemic and wounded soldiers.

In November that year, Ethel and her companions, including Geelong’s Dr Mary De Garis were made prisoners of war after the army of the German / Austro-Hungarian Empire invaded Serbia. Subject to treating wounded German soldiers for 3 months, the prisoners were told they would be

released back to England. This did happen and Ethel returned to England in February 1916 as part of a Prisoner of War Exchange. Ethel cabled her sister, Mrs Maud Wilcox of 22 Aphrasia Street Newtown advising that she was safe and well.

Ethel resumed her nursing, still with the British Red Cross, which took her back to Egypt in June 1916. Here, she was to meet Capt. Theo Richard (Dick) Evans, whom she married in Egypt on 22 September 1917. Ethel's final military nursing service was at Millbay Hospital, Plymouth from July to October 1918.

Upon their return to Australia, Ethel and Dick commenced their family life in Adelaide and later in Brisbane. They had 3 children; all girls and she did continue her work with the Red Cross for the remainder of her life. Ethel Gillingham Evans died on 3 February 1952 aged 67, at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital and later cremated at Fawkner Cemetery.



After the war, Ethel was awarded the Cross of Mercy by the Kingdom of Serbia and later again, in 1985, the appreciative citizens of Vrnjacka Banja erected a memorial in honour of the British Medical Mission of 1915.

In November 2024, the Serbian Government released a series of postage stamps to again acknowledge its appreciation of the Australian Doctors and Nurses from WW1. Sr Ethel Gillingham has her own postage stamp, featuring a stylised impression from a photograph of her. Another postage stamp acknowledges Dr Mary De Garis.



In 2016, the City of Greater Geelong also formally recognised Sr Gillingham by having a street named after her, being Gillingham Lane which runs north-south between Lt Myers and Kilgour Streets Geelong, as part of its centenary celebrations of WW1.



Of additional interest, Ethel's sister, Maud Wilcox, who died in 1920 and her husband Edward Wilcox who died in 1943 are also formally recognised within All Saints, with a stained-glass window acknowledging her commitment to the church, which was commissioned in 1945 by Maud's daughter, also named Ethel.

A Remembrance Service will be held at the City of Newtown War Memorial located in Moorak Park Newtown on Sunday 9 November at 10.00am where we will all have the opportunity to acknowledge Sr Ethel Gillingham, the other 5 nurses and the other 131 All Saints parishioners who are recorded on the WW1 honour board located in the church.

# Remembrance Service

Sunday 9 November 10:00 am

Moorak Park – Noble St, Newtown

After 1 minute silence at 10:15am, all are welcome to lay a floral tribute/wreath.

A Remembrance Sunday service at All Saints' Anglican Church will follow at 10:30am.

Contact:  
Stephen Yewdall  
0427 211 273



# A word about FONTS

By

Tim Gisbon



The “font” at All Saints’ is a bowl of water on a substantial pedestal near the entrance to the church. It is where baptisms take place, with the water sprinkled on the head of the person being baptised.

Fonts are traditionally located near the church door, as a reminder that baptism signifies entrance or initiation into the Christian life. Sometimes the area is a separate space in the church, called a baptistry, and in some instances the baptistry is actually a separate building outside the church entrance, as is the case with the famous Cathedral in Florence.

In some churches the font is an indentation in the floor, or it is a separate structure, that can be filled with water. This is for those baptisms where the baptised person is either fully immersed, or at least has the water poured right over them in the ceremony. Such baptisms are as “legitimate” as the sprinkling ones. St Paul’s Cathedral in Melbourne has a pedestal font but also an immersion one which I understand is sometimes used for baptisms at Easter.



One usually finds that fonts are of an octagonal (that is, 8-sided) shape. There are a number of theories put forward for this tradition:

\* In some ways, baptism is a Christian parallel to the Jewish rite of circumcision, which takes place on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after the birth of a male child (Luke 2:21)

\* The “8<sup>th</sup> day of a week” is effectively the first day of a new week. Jesus’ resurrection took place on the first day of a new week, and baptism signifies the Christian’s entry into new life in Christ (John 20:1; Colossians 3:1)

\* The story of Noah’s Ark has the “being saved through water”-theme, and there were 8 humans in the Ark: Noah, his 3 sons, and their wives (I Peter 3:20-21)

\* An esoteric explanation that appeals to Dan Brown/ “Da Vinci Code” aficionados goes something like this: (1) a square is a sign of “earthliness”, we measure area that way... and there are the “four corners” of the earth, etc; (2) one square layered on top of another forms an 8-sided figure (an octagon) and that approximates a circle; (3) a circle is a sign of eternity and perfection; (4) a Christian starts life in an earthly way, not being perfect, but hopes to journey towards eternity !  
Convinced?

I have also seen fonts where on the 8 sides there are written 8 words from a biblical text eg. “Suffer The Little Children To Come Unto Me “(Matthew 19:14).

# Community OUTREACH



Every week we say “we are a parish that reaches out and gathers in. The question for us is how do we live these words. What do each of us do in our daily lives to turn these words into a reality?”

We may find this task very difficult to do as individuals but perhaps not so difficult to do when there is a reason to reach out to people. Thus, the idea of organising various community functions was born. These are activities where it is possible to invite someone who would enjoy greater social connection but is hesitant to come to church.

When we invite people to our homes for a meal, we don't ask them to pay. Likewise with our proposed community events, we propose not to charge to cover the costs of running an event but rather to set up a special fund just for that purpose. We have called this our “Outreach fund”.

So to help us live our prayer please:

- Attend a function and invite a friend from outside our church community who would enjoy the event.
- If at all possible, make a donation to our Outreach fund

- Be prepared to share and extend the joy of being part of a community - a joy that we are lucky to experience at our services.

Donations accepted gratefully and can be made:

By EFT:

Bank: Anglican Development Fund

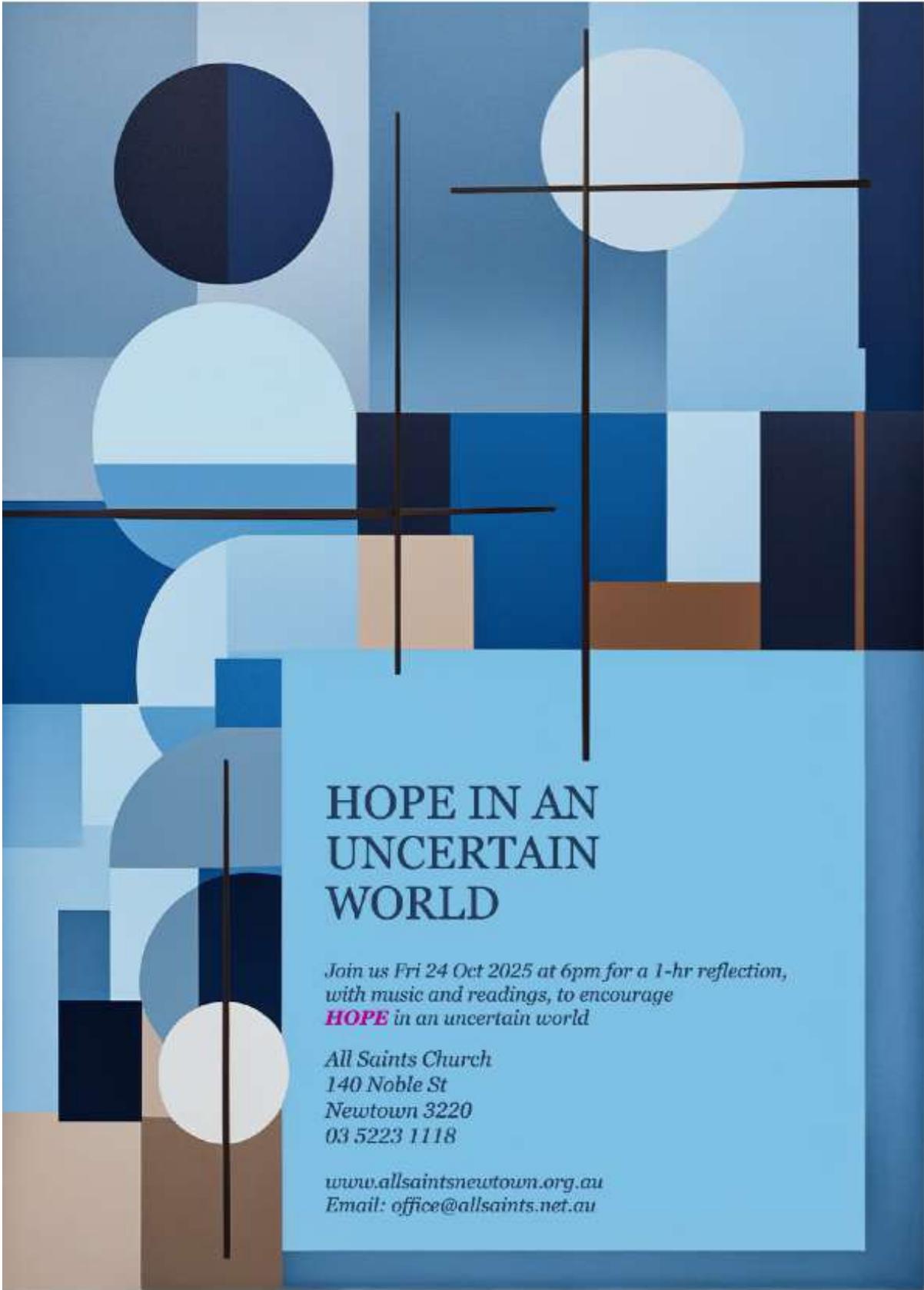
Name: All Saints Newtown and Geelong West

BSB: 703 122 Acc: 05009990

Reference: Outreach

Personally:

Using the Outreach envelopes that can be found at the back of the church



# HOPE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

*Join us Fri 24 Oct 2025 at 6pm for a 1-hr reflection,  
with music and readings, to encourage  
**HOPE** in an uncertain world*

*All Saints Church  
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# ANXIETY IS EVERYWHERE, BUT...

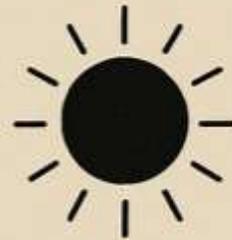
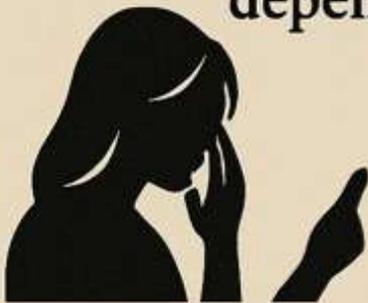
There are plenty of reasons to be  
anxious in modern life,  
given the deteriorating state of our  
planet, violence against women,  
endless wars and the illnesses

we will all face.

But that is no  
reason to give up,  
publicly or privately.

We can all benefit from  
nurturing our hope  
and contributions.

In fact, our future and  
those whom we love  
depends on our sense  
of hope.





proudly presents

# Marvelous *Melba*

A celebration of the life and music of  
Dame Nellie Melba

With Lisa Breen, Zinaida Champion, pianist Stefanie Gumienik,  
flautist Suzanne Moodie and associate artists



**16 November 2025, 2pm**

All Saint's Anglican Church,  
Noble Street, Newtown

Tickets \$30 adult, \$25 concession  
at door or via Trybooking  
<https://www.trybooking.com/DFIDX>

# Geelong Hospital chaplaincy appeal

The important ministry of Revd. Sheridan Hannah as Anglican chaplain to Barwon Health (Geelong Hospital) continues this year largely through the generosity of donors to the appeal to sustain this ministry, and through the provision of some limited funds from a trust fund held by the Diocese which are supplementing the donations we have received.

The Geelong Hospital appeal remains open and funds are needed on an ongoing basis. Please consider making this known again to your community.



**HOSPITAL  
CHAPLAINCY AT  
UNIVERSITY  
HOSPITAL,  
GEELONG**

## MEET SHERIDAN HANNAH

Sheridan is a Spiritual Care Practitioner and works at University Hospital, Geelong as a Hospital Chaplain. Sheridan speaks with patients, family, and staff who are in need of support during their time at the hospital. In a typical week Sheridan will contact 36 patients/family and staff, respond to 8 referrals, provide team morning reflection once a week and provide the weekly mindfulness session at the Andrew Love Wellness Centre for Cancer Services.

On any given day an average of 35 patients identify as Anglican.

## WHAT DOES A HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN DO?

Listen and meet people, to the best of our ability, where they are, listening for their values and beliefs as a way of understanding their pain and suffering, and ideally, of connecting them with their strengths and sources of hope. In listening Spiritual Care Practitioners create, enable a spiritual environment, a sacred space that gives the patient and family permission to share stories, express feelings, pray, grieve, cry and hope.



### OUR HISTORY

Anglican chaplains have always been available to patients, families and staff of any religious tradition or none. Spiritual Care has been provided at the hospital since 1974. The majority of Anglican chaplaincy time is spent providing spiritual care for all, and a small proportion of their time providing tradition-specific or sacramental care when requested. This is true of the role at University Hospital.



### OUR OBSTACLE

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne recently announced that it can no longer afford to provide Spiritual Care Practitioners in the current model to hospitals. At the end of December 2023, University Hospital Geelong will lose Sheridan Hannah in her current role from hospital services. Sheridan currently works at University Hospital 0.8 FTE.



### YOUR HELP

Sheridan Hannah is seeking your support to continue this valued ministry at University Hospital Geelong. You can help by making tax deductible donations through the Melbourne Anglican Foundation.



### HOW TO DONATE

Donate online via the website below or by scanning the QR code. Make sure you nominate the Chaplaincy Fund when making your donation.



SCAN TO DONATE

 <https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/melbourne-anglican-foundation>