

THE GOOD NEWS

Lent 2022

Anglican Parish of Box Hill
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The Vicar Writes ...

W

elcome to this Lent 2022 edition of “The Good News”! Lent is traditionally a time of prayer, fasting, giving, and reflection so as to prepare ourselves for the mystery and wonder of Holy Week and Easter.

Our world presents us with much to reflect upon: the ongoing COVID pandemic; the environmental crisis with the increasing intensity of weather events due to climate change; and the recent invasion of Ukraine by Russia – just to name a few! We rightfully ask ourselves – what is our place in such a world? The Church answers this question. The Church answers “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

In Lent the Church reminds us of our place. I did not say that the Church puts us in our place. To remember that we are dust is not a negative, not a put down. It is not an insult or a judgment. It means we look at the reality of who we are, where we have been, and where we are going. The Church is not saying remember that you are nothing but dirt. Instead we are being asked to remember that our life begins and ends in God.

We are to recall that God scooped together handfuls of sacred dust and breathed God’s own life into the dust. God breathed us into existence. God has chosen us to be the containers of God’s breath, God’s divine life. Despite all the dangers and threats of the world, the frailty of our bodies, the pain of our losses, the changes and chances of life, the fear of the unknown – we are, we always have been, and we always will be the beloved sons and daughters of God.

The Church invites us to the observance of a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on the Scriptures. It is a statement of God’s love and desire for us. It is the promise of resurrected life.

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There are a few parish initiatives to highlight:

- ◆ In response to both the situation in Ukraine and the ongoing pandemic we are reintroducing **Saturday morning prayers** in the church from 9.30 to 10am during Lent with a focus on peace and reconciliation.
- ◆ We are beginning the work needed for our parish to receive its first award from the 'Five leaf' Christian environment organisation – doing an **energy audit of our church buildings** and providing ongoing tips for parishioners to lessen their environmental footprint (posted each week in the Parish Link).
- ◆ We are hopeful to launch **our new creative service** (replacing the old FACS service) in Easter tide. The start has been delayed due to the ongoing threat posed by COVID. We are working towards making this service an avenue of cross-congregational fellowship and interaction. Watch this space.

Many thanks to all parishioners who continue to offer their time and expertise to the ongoing life of our community.

I issue an invitation to any who may like to be part of the newly created **St Peter's Climate Action Group** – a group who will take the lead on the initiatives needed during the course of this year and beyond. Please make contact with me for further details.

I ask that you continue to pray for our parish and that God may continue to richly bless us and guide us in 2022.

Fr. Shane
Vicar

What's Judy Jensen up to?

Coming from a recent background in pastoral work within Aged Care, I have for some time now sensed a call to deepen and broaden my ministry.



Following a recent sense of urgency to determine this, I applied for and was accepted into a course for Spiritual Direction Formation at the Living Well Centre, which is based at Saints Stephen and Mary's Anglican Church at Mt Waverley.

The Living Well Centre has an ecumenical faith ethos so at last week's three-day intensive I found myself in the company of women and men of varying ages and backgrounds and from an array of different Christian denominations. The course focuses on a practical theology where God's presence is revealed through the rough and tumble and joys of lived human experience; a God of love who walks with us, an eternal Presence at our inner core as abiding Spirit.

We meet for three-day intensives, four times a year and have reflective writings to submit following these. We refer to the writings of historical and contemporary Christian Mystics providing access to a richness of both written and oral material. We also refer to each other as fellow travellers searching for a closer relationship with God. I look forward with an open and longing of heart to what the future might hold!

*For I heard the call of my Lord
In the crisp clear of the morning
My steps chose the solid rocks of a knowing
and as the water swirled around
I rode the waves of turbulence to a place of
new beginnings.*

Join us

Prayers for peace in
Ukraine during Lent
Saturday at 9.30 am

A Trip Full Of Drama

I thought I was mentally prepared for this mission trip to Fiji during Covid; it wouldn't be easy, But it was beyond my imagination. It was full of drama - I don't know how to describe it, so I would just like to give a short list of some of the things which happened.

Due to the ash cloud from the Tonga volcanic eruption, my flight was cancelled twice before I could fly, so I was worried about cancelling and changing the hotel booking, and redoing the Covid test, but fortunately, they accepted the old test result.

Wendy helped me to pack my luggage and dropped me at the airport. As I always trust her, I was too relaxed and forgot to take my phone where many travel docs were saved, so I had to take the taxi back home and just came back to the airport in time. The good thing was that it created an opportunity to share the Gospel with the Muslim taxi driver and pray for him.

The quarantine hotel I stayed in was so unbelievable. The reception put me in the room and said they would deliver breakfast and give me the password for the internet, but I waited and waited, no one called me or knocked on the door. I didn't have a Fiji mobile to call anyone for help, and their phone didn't have any instructions on how to dial reception or call out. Finally I figured out the internet myself and made a rescue call.

There was no hot water in hotel, the water tap didn't flow well ... it was like a water spray gun with a shockingly loud sound, and ants were everywhere in the bathroom.

Every day they forgot my lunch, I had to re-order and call at least twice to remind reception, before finally getting lunch after 2:30pm. They also gave me wrong information about my RA Test, I waited a whole evening, no one came, and then they told me they would do it the following day.

Finally I was released and got to the church house, where I found that the house looked like a prison. Due to two robberies which happened last year at night, now every window and room had security bars and security nets.

There were so many insects, frogs, and rats around, and even cockroaches which woke me up at night. The mosquitos had a feast of me during my stay.

The missionary, my godmother, Hannah, has a honey business to raise funds for the mission and once when I helped her move the hives, two bees stung me.



There was a lot of building and garden work to be done, e.g. cleaning the drainage, making holes in the concrete, cutting trees and bushes, planting new trees. Every week the dying car battery needed reviving. Then there was carrying steel furniture, fixing the three-storey high church leaking roof (I climbed half way, then she suggested I come down). I didn't do too much, the missionary did the major jobs, but each time I tried to help, I got hurt! Don't know why I am so fragile!

A few families from the church got Covid, they are so brave, and just self-quarantined for a week or so, then after feeling a bit better they came to church without having got a negative

result. They shook hands with people and what's more, invited us to their home for dinner - we accepted the invitation ...

There were two weeks of heavy rain and storms, and many places were flooded. Every day, we had to go down to the storage level and take out 10-20 buckets water, as well as sweeping water out of some areas.

When I was doing my flight departure test in Rakiraki hospital, I was surprised to see how everyone was seated so close that we were literally touching each other's skin. Some children didn't wear masks, and were coughing in your face. This village hospital is worse than the refugee centre hospital on TV. I really felt for them, even if they were not sick, they would become sick by going there, which is why people don't want to go hospital to get tested. Thankfully, after waiting for two hours I got the negative result, then we headed to the airport.

During the long drive, we talked about how fortunate they are in Fiji, as there are not so many car accidents, as the road conditions are not safe and only one way. And then when we reached a small town, at the cross roads, another car just headed straight at us, I was screaming when we were about to hit. Almost touching, both drivers managed to stop their cars.

And finally ... my luggage was opened by Fiji airport loading staff secretly. They went through everything, opened every envelope, card, but fortunately they didn't take anything, as there was nothing valuable. Initially I wanted to put some mission support money in the luggage, but because the cash exchange rate is poor, I brought the money back to transfer online. This time the missionary stopped me and asked me to carry it in my wallet. I listened to her, otherwise, I suspect it would all have been gone.

What a trip! Thanks be to God, I landed in one piece, safe and sound! Despite many challenges, we were very happy, and the time was so fruitful, every morning we got up at

sunrise to worship, study the Word and pray together ... and so many things got done on time. The missionary says that was the mission trip benefit. We finished so many important works, including two years of adult, children, and youth Sunday school teaching material, prayer meeting, worship service, home group, church constitution ... plus four weeks preaching. So all in all it was a time full of God's grace. Where we are weak, he is strong!

*Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord,
"He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:1,2)*

Rev'd Esther Zhang
Minister in Charge,
St Peter's Chinese Congregation

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Fundraiser for St Peter's

Have you any time for a spot of gardening? Tesselaars Bulbs are easy. Clear guidance is given. They take little time and reward you with beautiful blooms. Why not try?



Hilary now has the forms for you to order from.

This is a Covid safe activity and fundraiser for our Parish.

This is an online order system, if this gives you difficulties then chat to Hilary who can order for you. The bulbs are delivered directly to your nominated address.

*Any queries to Hilary
Phone 0400 635 600 or 9899 7553*





The K People of the Silk Road

Some of our parishioners will have heard me talk about what I use cooking money for, other than when it's for our own church funds. The money is sent to Baptist Mission Australia (BMA), which supports missionaries. This is the story.

My God-daughter's daughter Eliza and her husband David, originally from Quambatook, and children, Jude 13, Dustin 10, and Caitlin 8, have been in the Mission field for 6 years, with a 6 months home leave after the first 3 years.

As well as Cross Cultural Ministry on The Silk Road BMA support other teams in Malawi & Mozambique, H people of Central Asia, B people of South Asia, Ethnic Thai of Thailand, The Kmer of Cambodia, BI & SI People of South East Asia. There are also "relationships" with other countries including Zambia and Zimbabwe (Rev.d David O'Brien spoke at our World Day of Prayer service in 2020, prior to his appointment to work in Zambia, but Covid, changed all this).

When Eliza and David were on "home leave" they spent 3 of the 6 months travelling (at weekends) from as far as Mt Gambier to Pt Macquarie. I think all visits were to Baptist churches who were supporting them, speaking and telling of their experiences. We heard them speak at Ashburton Baptist, and met Caitlin for the first time. Bev and Eric Sutherland joined us - Eric is a distant relation of Eliza's maternal great-great-grandfather.

On arriving in "the small village" Eliza, who trained as a journalist and worked for the Border Mail, quickly set up an "English school" in an empty house, and after a short time there was a waiting list. She was known as "my friend from English school" by the butcher, etc. Both Eliza and David have learnt the K language with adult tutors. The children have also learnt Russian. They began with home schooling then after a time were able to be enrolled at school.

While home for their 6 months Caitlin began school in Boort, travelling by bus with her brothers. Several of their teachers had taught Eliza at Quambatook Primary School, which has now closed.

David, a farmers son, from near Quambatook, is a very capable and resilient worker. He has designed and built useful farming equipment, e.g. a mobile fruit picker for the back of a ute, elevated to reach fruit instead of using ladders. When they returned from "home leave" he began work on a "men's shed" - two containers with the side cut out, a slab of concrete, a generator and a block of land. While building the shed the K men talk, and the Christian "word of God" was spread. This has been a vital part of their work.

Similarly Eliza spreads the Christian "word of God" among women with whom she mixes. They are clamouring for more. To learn the K language and teach English Eliza used Bible stories, children's books, etc.

We receive emails from them with heart-warming stories of families they have helped and joined for special family things. The children have made lots of friends. The family has had wonderful trips out into the mountains, camping, and a train trip (18 hrs) to the Black Sea. The children are learning amazing things over there.

"Sunday Club" as church is called is held in private homes, and when the group becomes too large they start another group and build up numbers again. There are around 1% Christians in Kazakhstan.

I am looking forward to seeing them again, they arrive home on Maundy Thursday for another 6 months home leave.

Jan Gunst

A prayer for the spread of the Gospel

*We praise you, Lord of all,
for the gifts of Christ our ascended King:
for apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.*

*Hear our prayer for all who do not know your love
and have not heard the gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Send out your light and truth

through the messengers of your word.

*Help us to support them by our prayers and offerings,
and hasten the coming of your kingdom;*

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Photographer: Jerry Valenzuela
Photograph by permission of Carole Plumridge

Lewis commenced playing the organ at St Peter's Box Hill, in a part-time position in the mid-1980's, as organist for Evensong, and on other occasions when required. By 1987, Lewis was appointed full-time organist and choir master, marking the beginning of over 35 years of dedication to providing a high standard of music and singing at St. Peter's.

Along with his wife Carole, also an accomplished musician and singing teacher, the Choir was encouraged and challenged to learn and perform many new items as anthems during communion, Christmas carols and songs for the annual Nine Lessons & Carols, as well as for a number of Concerts. The Choir was often supported by additional singers, enlisted by Carole and Lewis from their wide circle of musician students and friends.

Every few years, a Concert was planned, with items sung by the Choir, Carole and guest singers, as well as instrumental items performed by music students and friends. Lewis was always keen to challenge the Choir with new items, and had great faith in our ability to succeed – always patient, but persistent! Our "reward" after these special performances was a large box of

Lewis Plumridge 1947~2021 *Organist & Choirmaster* *at St. Peter's Box Hill*

chocolates to share – so soothing for the throat!

A social gathering of the choir was a (mostly) regular annual occurrence – usually around Christmas/New Year – at a restaurant, another choir member's home or at Lewis & Carole's home – a time to catch up and reflect on the year just gone: always a happy and joyful occasion.

Choir practice always commenced with an appropriate prayer, but was sometimes preceded by one or two amusing stories, anecdotes or quotes (told as only Lewis could), feedback from the week's music examinations (mostly about the talented young musicians he was examining), exploits at the Annual Air Show (where Lewis would have been "volunteered" to help clear spectators on the approach to the runway when planes taxied in and out, to and from the runway), and sometimes his sadness about the diminishing importance of music in the school curriculum.

How glad we were when Margaret Dymond (long-time parishioner) finally succeeded (after many years of trying) in convincing Lewis to make a recording of some carefully chosen music, played on the pipe organ at St Peter's – the result was "Offertorio" (2018). Thank you, Margaret!

Sometime later, Lewis was driving to church one Sunday morning, listening to his favourite 3MBS organ music programme, when he heard his name mentioned as the organist of the previous item, and "nearly ran off the road". He related this tale to the Choir, later discovering that his CD had been given to the presenter of the programme (Peter Wakeley), "on the quiet". He was quietly quite chuffed!

A second CD – “Music for Organ & Trumpet” – originally recorded on tape fifty years ago during Lewis’ National Service at Duntroon, Canberra – was formally released in November 2021. This was a project Lewis initiated and completed during the last six months of his life, with the full support of his family.

We at St Peter’s, and beyond, will miss Lewis greatly, but he leaves a legacy of wonderful music and singing, and many happy memories by all who knew and admired him.

Margaret Rockow

Copies of “Offertorio” are still available for purchase (\$15) through the Parish, and copies of “Music for Organ & Trumpet” (\$25) – are also available through the Parish, as well as online at www.lewisplumridge.com. (\$10 is donated to St Peter’s for each “Organ & Trumpet” CD sold.)

Memories from some Choir members:

Linda Boyd

A couple of clear memories about dear Lewis: Perfection was expected for all performances - he was always very concerned about our readiness for a big gig such as Easter or Christmas Carol service. Practices were compulsory leading up to the concerts, quite rightly, and I think we showed him we could come through with the goods on the night. His selections for such concerts would provide a challenge to all of us (Rutter in particular), however they were all so beautiful that we worked hard to get them right and do him proud.

Lewis was a very modest man - an exemplary musician with outstanding knowledge of his craft. His ability to select beautiful pieces that were absolutely appropriate for the weekly message is something I will always admire of him.

Margaret Best

Lewis always had a twinkle in his eye and was a lovely gentle man and gentleman. He was also a good cook at a barbecue. (Margaret also supported everything mentioned by Linda.)

Charles & Hilary Blakeman

A choir practice always started with a prayer relevant to choristers and had a selection from which he chose. Always non-judgemental, and he encouraged us each week to be the best we could.

He chose anthems, psalms and special occasion music from his large library. Lewis had a far ranging ability for the organ, piano and very occasional guest presenters with oboe or trombone.

We have very fond Memories of a great musician and family man.

Jan Gunst

Although I was only involved with St Peter’s choir for a short time, I found Lewis an amazing musician. Anyone who was taught by him, examined by him or in a choir under him was a lucky person.

Vale Lewis



Post Script

A few weeks after Lewis’ death, Carole received a plaque in honour of Lewis from the Australian Music Examinations Board – “in appreciation of his important contribution to music education through his service to the AMEB in Victoria, 1984-2021”.

Merging spiritual and creative practices and philosophies in a sustainability context

Living in the comparative abundance and prosperity that we do in Australia, and having beautiful and unique rainforests, and other plant ecosystems, we have particular responsibilities for their care, appreciation, creative recognition-inspiration and good management. Their presence has been inspirational and influential for many creative practitioners. They infuse and emit 'verdency', Hildegard's wonderful concept for the sumptuous, green, moist and beautiful living world around us (Hildegard, 1990).

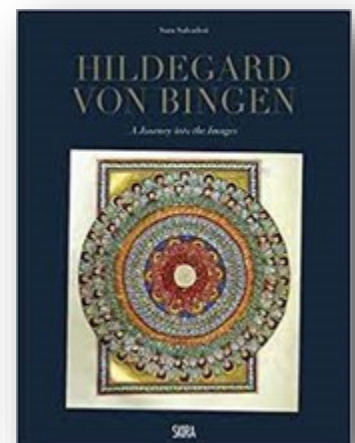
Encapsulating colour, life, light, 'green cathedrals' and forests of leaves, ferns, floral species and other life forms are of unquantifiable value to us and into the future. Many creative practitioners explore and celebrate, the joy, beauty, nature and life on our planet, infused with Sacred Spirit. Examples include: 'verdency' (Hildegard 1990), joyful - Matisse's joy and colourful celebration of life in his paintings Caranfa (2014).

Kandinsky and Matisse wrote in detail about the interior and material aspects of their art (Kandinsky 1911, Matisse in Caranfa 2104).

Jude Westrup

Summary table: Four theological-arts practitioners from the 11th or 20th Century, merging spiritual and creative practices and philosophies.

<i>Hildegard of Bingen</i>	11 th century	Medieval artist, visionary, painter, writer, composer	Influence: Verdency, 'Illuminations', mandalas, tree of life, cosmos; beautiful paintings & music
<i>Mi Fei</i>	11 th century	Taoism inspired painter and print-maker - Song Dynasty	Influence: Painting, music, landscapes, print-making; 'flow' with rhythms of nature.
<i>Kandinsky</i>	20 th century	Painter, drawer, writer, theorist, educator (<i>Concerning the Spiritual in Art</i>)	Influence: "That is beautiful which is produced by the inner need, which springs from the soul." "The true work of art is born from the 'artist': a mysterious, enigmatic, and mystical creation".
<i>Matisse</i>	20 th century	Painter, drawer, designer/cut outs, writer, theorist	Influence: Colour, painterliness, light, joie de vivre, 'cut-outs', prints and the Chapel (Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence)



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Poetry Corner

A Tree

by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
a poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
against the Earth's sweet flowing breast;
a tree that looks at God all day
and lifts her leafy arms to pray;
a tree that may in summer wear
a nest of robins in her hair;
upon whose bosom snow has lain;
who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are written by fools like me,
but only God can make a tree.



I No Longer Pray For Peace

by Ann Weems

On the edge of war, one foot already in,
I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.
I pray that stone hearts will turn
to tenderheartedness,
and evil intentions will turn
to mercifulness,
and all the soldiers already deployed
will be snatched out of harm's way,
and the whole world will be
astounded onto its knees.
I pray that all the "God talk"
will take bones,
and stand up and shed
its cloak of faithlessness,
and walk again in its powerful truth.
I pray that the whole world might
sit down together and share
its bread and its wine.
Some say there is no hope,
but then I've always applauded the holy fools
who never seem to give up on
the scandalousness of our faith:
that we are loved by God ...
that we can truly love one another.
I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

Church House Renovations 99% Completed

The Team members carrying out this huge task have finally wrapped up their tools, dusted off their boots, and taken a well-earned rest after an eight month marathon. What began as a two-day a week job gradually became a three-day then a four-day a week job, plus a lot of extra hours thrown in. And what a difference they've made!



Asbestos removal was the first major job, undertaken by professionals. The kitchen, main bathroom and toilet have been completely replaced. The back porch and laundry have been reoriented to include a second bathroom, toilet and laundry. The house has been painted throughout. The study now has new storage and workspace. Damage to walls and doors has been repaired and new front and back doors have been fitted.

New external and internal window blinds have been installed, as have fans in the living area and bedrooms. Heating ducts have been cleaned out and all floor coverings replaced.



The garden has been refreshed with some new low-maintenance planting. There remains now only the cladding of the garage, and some external painting.



The majority of the work has been done by Rob Kennedy, Garry Male and Garry Plumridge, but they have been ably assisted at various times by Kim Cornish, Keith Wilkins, Margaret Rocco, Jen Walker, Margaret and Phil Dooley, Rev'd Alisdair, Rev'd Esther, Barbara Plumridge and Massoud, an Iranian Refugee and member of our Chinese congregation, whose enthusiastic skill in plastering and painting was greatly appreciated. Barbara Plumridge and Michele Mitchell assisted with kitchen design and choice of floor-coverings. Thanks to both our electricians, Steve and Steve, and our plumber, Paul, who took care of the tricky bits.

The Team were very appreciative of the visitors who popped in along the journey to see how the work was going, including Laurence Law, Bishop George, and Fr Shane, and all our parishioners who came on the Open Day. On completion, the house was blessed, and the new occupants have now moved in.



Well done, everyone. The result is amazing!

As the final skip was hauled away, there was a collective sigh from everyone – including the staff at Bunnings!



Abaar Orphanage School, Bortown

Fr Joseph has been busy in Bortown supervising the work on our school buildings.

This time last year we had four classrooms that had some damage from the elements, and we appealed for donations for building repairs to enable the classrooms to be used by local students. In July we started raising funds to help us build the remaining four classrooms. Since July last year we have raised over \$50,000 and we have been able to complete all the classrooms for the school.

In local administration – we have our registration as a charity and have applied to change the rules of the Abaar Orphanage Bortown Inc. so that we can be approved by the ATO for tax deductible gift status. We are still



awaiting a response to our application to Consumer Affairs Victoria, but expect to hear soon. The tax deductibility should be backdated to 1 July 2021. Fr Joseph has sent photos of progress to date.

Final work on the four new classrooms in February 2022

Eight classrooms allow space to teach from grade 1 to grade 8, the standard education for children in South Sudan. Work has also been done on clearing and levelling the school grounds. Our hope is to have the school fully operational this year.



We will have to raise more money to reach that goal, as we will need to build secure perimeter fences, with a gate and security post. We also need a staffroom with kitchen and restroom, plus more toilets.

Fr Joseph is having plans drawn up and obtaining quotes for the final stages of the building program, likely to cost about \$30,000 in total.

We had planned to name the school St Peter's School, in recognition of the support from our parish. Unfortunately there is already a St Peter's School in Bortown so we have to choose a different name.

Further fundraising

We have a lovely handwoven rug made by Jen Walker, for which we started to sell raffle tickets prior to the last COVID lockdown. Raffle tickets will be on sale at morning teas after church services in March. Thank you to everyone who has made this progress possible.

Margaret Dooley



Greening the Church

Church greening is a young and exciting movement. In the United Kingdom, and particularly in the United States, it is rapidly taking off as hundreds of churches and church leaders become engaged in environmental improvement projects and environmental certification schemes. Here in Australia, the movement is smaller, but already there are some really exciting stories coming from churches around the country.

Our parish has joined this movement to share in help renew God's creation! The Five Leaf Eco-Awards Church Project helps us to be better stewards of God's earth.

Our first of seven goals is to conduct an energy audit. If you have expertise in this field, or would just like to be involved, here's your opportunity!

Fr Shane is gathering people to be part of **St Peter's Climate Action Group** who will work together to ensure our Parish, and we as parishioners, have information that will help us all care for God's world. Let's know if you'd like to be involved—contact Fr Shane and let him know you are interested.

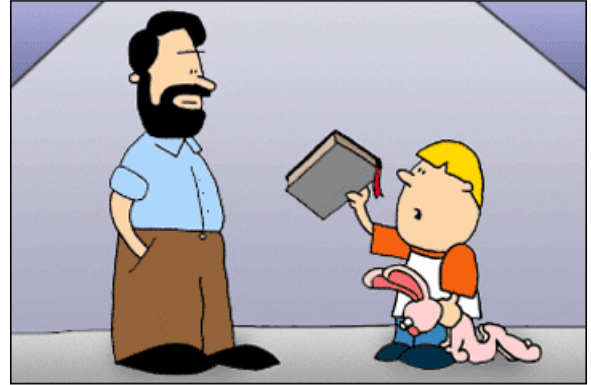


In the meantime, here are some 'green' tips for you to consider using in your day-to-day life which will save both energy and money:

1. Don't overfill the kettle for just one cuppa
2. Fit an aerator to your tap
3. Cut your shower back by 1 minute—or two!
4. Turn off lights as you leave the room
5. Don't use your washing machine for a few things—wait until there is a good load
6. Avoid using the tumble dryer—put a clothes horse over your ducted heating vent

Last Laugh

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04-13-2006

DAD, I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND OUT WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT THE EASTER BUNNY IN THE BIBLE



Adam's Ribs

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?'

Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'

Funny jokes for Church