

# Parish Life

**MARCH 2022**

## The Season of Lent – a time of penitence and reflection

### In this issue

■ One Night of Terror	2
■ Crucifer Photo	3
■ Gala Organ Recital	4
■ What's On	4

Sisters and brothers in Christ, from the earliest days of the church, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first, this season was observed by those who were preparing for baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the communion of the church from which they had been separated through sin.

In time, the church came to recognize that, by keeping these days with care and attention, all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.

In the name of the church, I invite you to keep a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer and fasting, by self-denial and acts of generosity, and by reading and meditation upon the word of God.

**Let us not forget our glory.**

**Let us not forget our shame.**

**Let us kneel and remember.**

*Fr Max Wood, Rector*

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MOSMAN

## EASTER 2022



### GOOD FRIDAY

**15 April**

9am Good Friday Liturgy

12pm The Stations of the Cross

### EASTER DAY

**17 April**

7am Balmoral Rotunda Service

10am Easter Day Eucharist

Cnr Ourimbah Road & Heydon Street

[www.stlukesmosman.org](http://www.stlukesmosman.org)

# One Night of Terror

Jocelyn Chey

Terror is when you feel absolutely helpless, when everything is out of control, when you realise that you are an infinitely small speck of matter in the universe. That is what I felt on the night of 28/29 July 1976, the night that an earthquake struck the city of Tangshan in North China.

I and my family were taking a short summer holiday at the seaside resort of Beidaihe, about 100km east of Tangshan. It had been a difficult year, with major political developments in Australia and China. My two sons, Stephen and Jonathan, had been attending local primary school in Beijing but their schooling had to be abandoned because the teachers were called away for political study sessions. The Australian embassy, where I was working, had been stretched to the limit managing Prime Minister Fraser's first visit to China in June. July was hot and humid.

The Chey family badly needed some time to relax.

To get to Beidaihe in those days meant a four hour train trip but it was worth it. We stayed in a stone cottage with wide verandahs and a view over the beach and the calm waters of the Bohai Gulf. That evening we sat outside in wicker chairs in the cool breeze and played cards. There was a spectacular storm out to sea with sheet lightning that I had never seen before, but around us the pine trees were still and there was no hint of rain. It was very still, in retrospect unusually still, no sound of frogs or crickets.



*Jocelyn Chey*

*It was  
very still,  
in retrospect  
unusually  
still, no sound  
of frogs or  
crickets*

The boys went to bed early, tired out after a swim, and I turned in not long after. Around half-past three in the morning, I woke, dreaming that I was waiting for a train at Wynyard Station. I could hear the train coming and the earth was trembling. The tremble grew to a roar.

I realised it might be an earthquake. My first thought was to get the boys out of bed. I remembered reading advice about earthquakes. You should stand in a doorway or find a place with some protection in case the roof collapsed. I tried to stand but the bed was shaking from side to side so violently that I could not.

After what seemed an age but in fact may have been less than a minute, the tremor subsided.

By that time we were all awake. I went outside to see what was happening. Soon some security staff came running and told us that for our safety we should stay out of the house, so we dragged the wicker chairs away from the house, sat and waited for the dawn.

When the sun rose we could see how lucky we had been. The solid walls of the cottage were intact, but a gap in the whitewash on the ceiling showed that



*Jocelyn's sons – Stephen and Jonathan*



*I realised  
it might  
be an  
earthquake*

the roof had shifted sideways by about half a metre. Just a little more and it could well have fallen on us.

Later in the day, we thought we would

walk into the village but the mudbrick houses there had all been flattened and the road was closed. Then there were aftershocks. Around midday we were near a tall radio mast and it started to sway. We ran.

It was some time before we learned where the epicentre of the earthquake was or how serious it was. We spent most of that day in suspense, waiting to find out. Someone from the embassy in Beijing managed to get a phone call through, asking whether we and the other four or five Australians were all safe. He said that Beijing had been badly affected and people had to leave their apartments and find shelter outdoors. The next day, local officials told us that the railway line was broken

and that the roads were reserved for troop movements to support rescue efforts. It was rumoured that an entire train had been swallowed up when a rift opened along the railway line. We were evacuated from Beidaihe on a Chinese military plane and flown back to Beijing.

This earthquake measured 7.6 on the Richter scale. It is the third or possibly second most deadly quake in history. Official records state that 250,000 people died, but the real number may be much larger. The city of Tangshan, with a population of 1.5 million, was flattened.

Living through this experience, I understand why Francis Lyte's hymn *Abide with Me* is sung at times when we remember those caught up in war and

*It was  
rumoured  
that an entire  
train had been  
swallowed up  
when a rift  
opened along  
the railway line*

## Our newest Crucifer



powerful events beyond our control. This day, 29 September 1976, was truly a day of terror but it also reminded me that our destiny is in the hands of God.

***“When other helpers fail,  
and comforts flee, Help of the  
helpless, Lord, abide with me.”***



*Beidaihe – after the earthquake*



# Fincham Organ-Gala Recital

On Saturday 5 February, we celebrated the restoration of our Fincham Organ with a gala recital. This was an opportunity for us to rededicate the instrument to the glory of God; hear from Simon Pierce about some of the works and improvements made to the instrument, and to experience, first-hand, how these works have enhanced our organ. A very sincere thank you to all who supported the Organ Restoration Appeal and helped ensure that our instrument, and the musical life of the parish, will continue for generations to come.

*Callum Close, Director of Music and Organist*



*Top Photo (L to R): Callum Close, Imogen Pierce, Simon Pierce, Revd Dr Max Wood  
Bottom Photos (L to R): Callum Close, Simon Pierce, Fr Max*

## WHAT'S ON @ ST LUKE'S 2022

### THROUGH THE YEAR

**Sunday 17 Apr Balmoral Easter**  
7am Balmoral Rotunda

**Sunday 17 Apr Easter Day Brunch**  
11.30am Seddon Hall  
(Sandwiches & sparkling wine)

**Sunday 26 Jun Scottish Themed Lunch**  
12pm Seddon Hall

**Sunday 16 Oct Patronal Festival & Lunch**  
12pm Seddon Hall

**Sunday 11 Dec Nine Lessons & Carols**  
7pm Church/Courtyard  
(Fruit cake & bubbles)

### ONCE EACH MONTH

**First Wednesday of the month: Blokes' Night** 6pm Upper Duck

**Second Sunday of the month: Pub Lunch** 12pm Lower Duck

**Third Saturday of the month: Movie Afternoon** 3pm Lower Hall

**Fourth Tuesday of the month: Girls' Night Out** 6pm Upper Duck


### WEEKLY IN SCHOOL TERMS

**Study Group**  
Thursdays (in school terms)  
10.30am Lower Hall

**Mid-Week Eucharist**  
Thursdays (in school terms)  
11.30am Church

**Mid-Week Lunch**  
Thursdays (in school terms)  
12pm Café Jam

Parishioners and friends are always welcome at St Luke's activities and events – weekly, monthly or occasionally – throughout the year. Highlight the activities that you'd hate to miss and put them into your diary, pronto! We look forward to you being a part of the life of the parish in 2022!

*Remember you  
can follow  
St Luke's on* 

St Luke's is a place of rich and diverse liturgy, where life and faith connect.  
We are a progressive community that welcomes all people regardless of gender, age, race, sexual orientation or religion.  
We support the full and equal role of women in society and in the ministry of the church.

**Editor:** The Rev'd Dr Max Wood  
**Design:** Debbie McLeod  
**Photos:** Jocelyn Chey, Simon Pierce, James Tolhurst, Max Wood

To stay in touch at St Luke's, check the weekly pew bulletin regularly, read the quarterly *Parish Life*, visit our website [www.stlukesmosman.org](http://www.stlukesmosman.org) and follow us on 