

Cheltenham - Mentone Uniting Church

News Letter

2022 No 2 13th February



Leprosy - the hidden pandemic

Leprosy rarely affects people in modern Australia, but it's deeply interwoven with our world's history. It's been uncovered in skeletons over 4000 years old, and recorded in ancient texts that date back to 600 BCE. Research suggests that the bacterium responsible evolved in the Late Pleistocene era—more than 10,000 years ago.

Leprosy is a neglected tropical disease caused by bacteria. Leprosy is thought to be contracted when a person affected by leprosy coughs or sneezes, and a vulnerable person breathes in the droplets containing the bacterium. **Leprosy is curable.**

The first bacteria responsible was found in 1873 by Dr Gerard A Hansen, a physician in Norway. He named it *M. leprae*. Dr Albert Neisser successfully stained the bacteria, improving its identification seven years later.

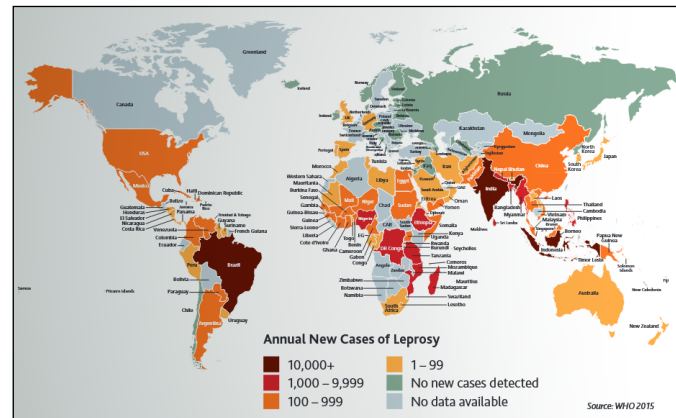
The discovery of a bacterial cause was a major departure from the belief that leprosy was a hereditary disease, a punishment from God or a result of miasma (the prevailing belief prior to germ-theory). Some of these beliefs persist today. They cause a lot of problems for people affected by leprosy.

How can I help? Click on the above image or link below to download **The Leprosy Mission Australia Gift Catalogue**.
<https://shop.leprosymission.org.au/pages/catalogues>

Learn more about The Leprosy Mission Australia at
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/>



Click on this image to read



Cheltenham Op Shop

CHELTHENHAM OPPORTUNITY SHOP is now open for business in its new location - 10 Park Rd, CHELTHENHAM (between the old CommBank & the Squire's Loft) Opposite St Matthews Anglican Church. Hours are 9.30am - 4pm weekdays & 9 - 12 Saturdays. Donations are welcome, but nothing electrical. Frances MacKay & Helen Cole are volunteers there, & may be able to answer any queries.

Sammy Stamp

Hopefully you have been saving your used stamps from Christmas - they can be brought to the Black Rock church or given to Helen Cole anytime. Remember that old stamp collections are very welcome too. The Uniting Church volunteers are back sorting on a regular basis & last year, despite Covid, Sammy Stamps was able to provide \$58,000 in small grants to mostly local Uniting Church projects. Enquiries - Helen 8588 1789 . More about Sammy Stamp next week -

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Envelopes: If you wish your offering to be specifically for Cheltenham , please place it in an envelope marked "Cheltenham" and place it in the offering bowl at church.

Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our new Westpac account at

Southland The account number is 664 881 and the BSB number is 033 358

Payee "Uniting Church in Australia Cheltenham Mentone Parish Council"

The former Commonwealth Bank - BSB 06 3119, Account Number 1014 1206 - is still active but the new Westpac account will soon be our only account.

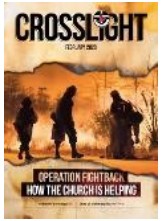


Bible Readings for February 13th Epiphany 6 *(the readings used in our service may differ slightly)*

Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26

CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the CROSSLIGHT image to view online. www.crosslight.org.au

Print copies of CROSSLIGHT usually available at the entrance of the Black Rock Uniting Church. Latest CROSSLIGHT now available from David Vine, 4 Jemma Ct. Cheltenham 9583 7373.



Prayers of the People



We pray especially for -

The families and friends of
Shirley Morgan and Gail Hobbs
Virginia (*Nan's friend*)
Betty Kneen
Dawn's daughter Carol
Robert (*Joan Wright's brother*)
Pete, Bruce & Valda (*friends of
Jo-ann & David*)

Stuart *as he struggles with
addiction*
Janine and June Bartholomeusz
(*Jenny & Cec thank you for your
prayers*)
Audrey Fewster
Margaret's neighbour Joan
Grace Fairbank

Gemma and Teresa
Susan Bartell
Bronwyn
Gloria Sampson & Family
Barb Loosemore
Isobel Churchward
Anita and Rod

Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am *(doors open 9:45 am)*



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download>

Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85247373230?pwd=WIM2UHJEemFWS3RScnNqM3puaGdZdz09>



Otherwise open Zoom and enter the following - **Meeting ID: 852 4737 3230** **Passcode: 836844**

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.

MUTS

MUTS (Monday Uniting Talk & Study Group), will be held on Zoom or in person at Jenny & Grant's place on Monday 14th February, 2022. (*Jenny & Grant will be away on the 21st so we have brought it forward a week*) All are welcome to join the study and discussion. We plan to watch another Bill Loader study - Holy Communion. Here is the video link and the zoom invite will be sent later.

<https://vimeo.com/410919510>. Please let Jenny know if you are coming in person or would like the Zoom invitation.

Jenny Collins 0409936377 or jacngrant@gmail.com

Videos on the Internet



NEW YouTube Channel; Follow this link or click on the YouTube logo
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-y4pZ_f_lezegzNZi6nnQ
to view selected sermons and service preludes



Social Collection Department

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them (Graeme & Joan Wood) on 9555 0462

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to take items to the Moorabbin office if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale.

The Other Shirleys (or should that be 'Shirlies?')

We recently said farewell to our beloved Shirley Morgan, our church being represented by Jenny Collins and Janet Hall at her funeral service. But Helen Cole tells us of another side of Shirley's life -

"Shirley Morgan was a long time (estimated close to 20 years) member of the 'SHIRLEY CLUB' - which has branches in all states of Australia, New Zealand, and some overseas countries. The local branch met every month for lunch at various venues all around Melbourne, and Shirley was a very committed member. They also held annual, or biennial conventions which Shirley sometimes attended. She was much loved and will be sadly missed".



We are serious - and do call us Shirley!

(Canberra Times—2013)

"And it'll be talking non-stop," ACT co-ordinator Shirley Bischelberger said. The Shirley Club was formed in 1996 in Western Australia by Shirley Brown, who was meeting with a couple of other friends called Shirley. They came up with the idea of inviting other Shirleys to join the fun and approached local media to get the word out. "And, as I say, the rest is history," Mrs Bischelberger said.

There are now clubs around Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Members meet once every two years for a national convention, with Canberra selected as the venue this time to coincide with the city's centenary. The convention, from September 13 to 16, has 150 Shirleys registered, with 182 Shirleys signed up for the dinner dance on the Saturday night. Three Shirleys are coming from the US. The Shirleys will visit local attractions such as Floriade and the War Memorial and enjoy their convention traditions, including skit night.

"It's always a cackle," Mrs Bischelberger said. "The conventions are a hoot, they really are. We're all fun-loving girls. We like having a good time. Our motto is, 'Fun, Food and Friendship' and, I tell you ... they live up to it."

The only requirement for membership is to be named Shirley. It can be a last name, which opens it up to males but Mrs Bischelberger said, inevitably, the members were female and first-name Shirleys. Sometimes Shirl.

"All my family calls me Shirl," the 64-year-old grandmother from Conder said. "A lot of the girls don't like 'Shirl' but I don't mind. As long as you don't call me late for dinner."

The Shirleys do tolerate "Non-Shirleys". To an extent. One member joked that Non-Shirleys should be allowed to speak occasionally at conventions. "Maybe one short sentence every decade or so," she wrote on the club's website.

The ACT branch of The Shirley Club, formed in 2001, has 32 members aged 55 to 90 who meet once a month for outings. "It's a get-together," Mrs Bischelberger said. "All we have in common is the same name. We come from all walks of life, all ages."

But there does appear to be something intrinsically decent attached to a Shirley. Have you ever met a nasty Shirley? It is a name that belongs to another, perhaps more honourable era.

The club says it did establish a new category for Guinness World Records for the biggest "Same Name Gathering" at its 2001 convention in Alice Springs. That record was eclipsed in 2005 when 1096 Mohammeds gathered in Dubai. And, sadly, as time marches on, Mrs Bischelberger doesn't think the Shirleys will beat that record. "No, they're dwindling down. It's an old name," she said.

Despite the joie de vivre of the Shirleys, they also don't suffer fools gladly. When some clown called Kevin (surname not released, one can only speculate) asked if he could join The Shirley Club, he was soon given short shrift.

"No, Kevin (you idiot)," was the quick, no-nonsense response. "Change your name by deed poll and we'll see."

There is also a Shirley song. — ***But think of one all and I'm sure you'll agree,
The best name of all is of course - SHIRLEY!***