

Hello everyone! Welcome to the combined June – July issue of Catherine's Wheel. First off I would like to begin with a mention of the visit by Rt Rev'd Sophie Relf-Christopher, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Adelaide who led a confirmation service at the parish on Trinity Sunday. Confirmed into the Anglican faith were Mary Abiei Aguto, Awer Ajak, Ezekiel Ajak, Suzzana Ajak, Duot Kuer Bul, Ajang Deng, Duom Deng, Alier Dut, Angeth Koor Dut; Daniel Per Koor Dut; Franciz Mayol; Isiah Riak Kur Mayol; Sarah Awel Kur Mayol. David Shepherd and Greg Trenowden both re-affirmed Baptismal vows and Dorothy Shepherd was received into the Anglican Church.



Siya carries the cross to lead the procession.



Bishop Sophie preaching on Trinity Sunday

South Sudanese sing about their commitment to Jesus and a traditional dance



Here are some fun facts...

Did you know that in the NRSV of the Holy Bible, John 5:1-9 is actually missing verse 4? Check and you will see! After some research I have learnt that it was removed because it is not found in the earliest and most reliable Greek manuscripts of the Gospel of John. Scholars believe that the verse was added later, possibly by a scribe, to explain verse 7, where the sick man mentions the water being "stirred". Furthermore, the earliest and most authoritative Greek manuscripts, such as **Codex Sinaiticus** and **Codex Vaticanus**, do not include John 5:4

(source: Chat-GPT)

And another **fun fact** I have found relates to international recording star Lady Gaga's movie remake A STAR IS BORN which was released in 2018, co-starring Bradley Cooper. If you look at the soundtrack to the movie there is a song called MAYBE ITS TIME. ***Incredibly, the song lyrics contain reference to CATHERINE'S WHEEL!!***



Confirmees, new church members and those who have made a new commitment.

Here is a shot of the parish recognizing and celebrating the Day of Pentecost where we all wore red.



And here is a Pentecost Day Candle.

Because I like candles.

Below is the second half of the article published in the April-May 2025 Issue of Catherine's Wheel, entitled "Harry Potter and Christianity"

Dumbledore has extraordinary power, but refuses to use it to control others, even offering evil Voldemort chances to repent and be changed. Finally Dumbledore gives up all power, sacrificing his own life, not for the 'good' Harry, but for his enemy, the corrupted, suffering boy, Draco. When Draco says 'I have you at my mercy' Dumbledore says, 'it is my mercy that matters' indicating that this is not a situation about earthly power and control but a spiritual struggle. The story states that taking the life of a fellow being rips the soul to shreds. Similarly, Dumbledore encourages Harry to learn about Voldemort's background to understand how he became evil and understand and pity his need for power and glory in the yawning absence of friendship and love. In this way, Harry is urged to defeat evil but not simply to condemn, and always to understand the ways of corruption, power and greed and what it does to people.

There is no doubt that Harry is a flawed human being like all of us. We also learn that, like God, Dumbledore knows the secrets of his pupils' hearts and gives them what they need in times of utmost trial. When Harry's best friend, Ron, runs away and abandons him, Ron has a gift from Dumbledore which enables him to come back when he finds his courage. When Harry is apparently alone and at the mercy of Voldemort, Dumbledore's Phoenix arrives to protect him and heal him. In a deeply heart-wrenching scene, an invisible Dumbledore reveals himself to have been alongside Harry all the time as he sits before a magic mirror longing for glimpses of his lost family. Harry, orphaned and alone, realises then that Dumbledore has always been with him (**compare** Isaiah 41.10). Dumbledore presses Harry to live his life in abundance not in dreams (**compare** John 10.10). We also learn about faithfulness and love through the horrible and apparently evil Snape, who acts as a double agent to foil the plans of the truly evil Voldemort. Snape does this out of an enduring love for Harry's mother, never revealing his motives and allowing himself to be despised and hated for the greater good (**compare** Isaiah 53.3). Through this part of the story arc, we learn about the cost of love, about courage and loyalty, and the complete dedication of self to protect others.

There is a powerful spiritual journey throughout the series within which love is triumphant and evil cast down, despite the cost. There is no doubt that Harry is a flawed human being like all of us. In the first book he is a child who understands nothing, but as the series develops, we see him as a teenager with often uncontrolled emotions and

impetuous and unwise actions. By the end of the series he is an adult with huge responsibilities worried about the state of his world and the threat to his friends and those he loves. But the Harry Potter stories clearly show the value and importance of friendship and how the intelligence, learning and sheer common sense of his friend Hermione, the cleverest witch in the school, stops Harry going off the rails completely. Together with Ron, the bonds of love and care between these three show the fruits of relationship and the way to confront and overcome danger and evil. Harry is not a superhero; but his shortcomings are overcome by the gifts, trust and loyalty of his friends, teachers and companions. Yes, the Harry Potter stories use the framework of witches and wizards as so many children's stories do. But like other children's stories there are also centaurs, pixies, giants, dragons, hippogriffs, and scary vegetables. J K Rowling drew on a huge amount of folklore, myth and fairytale; it is not an 'occult' story. There are flying broomsticks and invisibility cloaks, cats and toads. But these elements are pegs on which the overarching narrative of good, evil and overwhelming, unstoppable sacrificial love exists, which Christians learn from the story of Jesus. There is a powerful spiritual journey throughout the series within which love is triumphant and evil cast down, despite the cost. Many people, who call themselves 'spiritual' rather than 'religious' have found pathways to faith through Harry's story, because his pilgrim's journey to understanding, and his struggle to make sense of what really matters, has echoes in us all.

Source: <https://www.christianity.org.uk/article/harry-potter-and-christianity>

Note no name was given credit for this article on the website quoted above.

Parish Council

For updates on activities please speak to one of your friendly Councillors.

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And to close we have Parish Pianist Ian Thompson preparing for the Pentecost Day service

