

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

August 2017 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

## > Meditation

### United Religions Initiative (URI) Interfaith Youth Camp Reflection

On July 7, a diverse group of 32 young people converged at Seoul's Chondogyo Cathedral to open the 2017 URI Korea Youth Camp. I was asked to speak in front of the group to introduce myself as the representative from Australia, and to express my hopes for the next five days. Awkward and unsure that many people would understand my Aussie accent, I approached the microphone. I spoke briefly about how, in my faith tradition in the Uniting Church, I love the idea of witnessing another's humanity as a way of witnessing the divine at work.

The following few days was a time of immense witness for all of us in getting to know one another on a personal, cultural and faith level. As we visited sacred sites of worship and cultural significance around Korea, we shared very personal moments reflection and discovery, learning from the insights of one another's experience, and the wisdom of the camp leaders. We were also able to get to know some of our colleagues in further depth through working groups where we brainstormed and prepared a presentation about what it means to be a URI global citizen. It was through this process that my wonderful 'family' unpacked our own perspectives on faith and peace.

There were so many moments of laughter and connection as we tried to translate each other's thoughts from five different languages, all to rest on the idea of communication. We developed our ideas around the URI principles and personal beliefs in searching for greater understanding in one another's faith and culture as an enactment of peacebuilding and global citizenship.

While this group work was a beautiful and harmonious experience, I also found the task of understanding and witness throughout the camp challenging at times. I noticed my own positionality as a feminist queer Christian. I was exhausted at times by the sheer masculinity in the messaging of faith, whether through the male faith leaders we spoke to, or the various religious sites that by and large feature men as deities and men practicing their faiths. I guess I observed something that is a pattern in faith, that it is often messaged as a relationship between man and their god, where women are often objects or vehicles for a man's spiritual journey, rather than being granted a distinct spiritual and theological journey of their own.

This is a challenge that I took away from the camp, and I am grateful for the reflection it has brought about. I had the most wonderful, human experience in making friends with many amazing young people of faith. Through both the joys and challenges, my belief in the common experience of every one of us, our hopes for peace and harmony, particularly in the reunification and reconciliation of Korea, was very much affirmed. The URI youth camp not only talked about compassion and witness of other's humanity, but imbibed it. I went away from those five days with renewed hope and humility, assured in the knowledge that through interfaith co-operation, we can truly build peace and understanding especially around issues of gender and sexuality in largely patriarchal faith spaces.

Anika Jensen



## > Worship Calendar

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### Meditation

Sunday morning meditation in the Youth Hall from 8.15 am until 8.45 am on the first Sunday of the month. Join us on **Sunday 6th August and 3rd September**.

### Holy Communion & All Age Worship

Also on the first Sunday of the month we worship as a whole congregation with activities for the young at heart in the Gathering Space during the sermon and the celebration of Holy Communion as a whole congregation.

### Pageant Planning

The worship committee will be hosting the first Pageant Planning meeting for this year's pageant after worship on **Sunday 13th August**. Come along if you want to join in the fun. Contact Saide, 0407 096 743 if you want to find out more.

### Long Service Leave

Preachers during Ian's Long Service Leave will be

- **10th September** - Kirsten Parris
- **17th September** - Joan Fisher
- **24th September** - Carlynne Nunn
- **1st October** - Sunny Chen
- **8th October** - Graeme Garrett

### World Week for Peace

We will welcome Rev Joan Fisher as our preacher on **Sunday 17th September** the beginning of World Week for Peace. Joan has participated in the Ecumenical Accompaniers Program Palestine Israel. See the FUNdraising update, page 7 for news about how we will support the work for peace in Palestine Israel.

## > Index

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- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Meditation  | 6. JAM News - IHH, World Week for Peace, BUC Arts   | 10. Regular Events                                      |
| 2. Worship calendar, Special Events, Culture of Safety | 7. JAM News - Peacemaking, FUNdraising, Food Co-op  | 11. Reports: Property, Communication                    |
| 3. Thank you Julie                                     | 8. Presbytery News, Pastoral Care News, CY&YA News, | 12. Reports: Worship                                    |
| 4. Thank you Julie                                     | 9. CY&YA News, News                                 | 13. Reports: Worship                                    |
| 5. JAM News - Committee, Olive Way                     |   | 14. Worship, Happy Birthday, Preaching Plan, Lectionary |
|  |   | 15. Diary   |

## > Special Events

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### An August & September Summary

*Lots happening, here's a summary to help you keep track and page numbers so you know where to find the details.*

- BUC Arts 'Knit In', **5th August**, see p 6
- 'Bag It' screening, **19th August**, see p 5
- Community lunch & Peace Felting (after worship), **27th August**, see p 8
- World Week for Peace Afternoon Tea, **16th September**
- Disco Bingo, **16th September**, see page 7
- FUNdraising Stall, **17th September**, see page 7

## > Culture of Safety

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### Contact person

If any member of the congregation – child or adult - has concerns about the safety of our children, particularly in relation to child sexual abuse, or the welfare of vulnerable adults, it is important that you report this in confidence so that support can be provided. You may speak to Helen Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Safe Church Contact Person appointed by Church Council. Brunswick Uniting Church has a process for following up any concerns raised. Follow this link to the flow chart for reporting and responding. Please contact Helen in person or by telephone at 0423 009 813



## > Thank you Julie



### Julie's ministry

During worship on **Sunday 23rd July** we acknowledged and celebrated Julie's ministry as Children's & Families Co-ordinator. Julie entered this role as a consultant for the Children, Youth & Young Adult committee in 2012. The outcome of this consultancy was the '[Pathways to the River report](#)' which has since shaped our ministry to the younger people in our congregation from babies through to young adults. Julie was then appointed as the Children, Youth & Young Adult worker. Over time and in response to emerging circumstances this role evolved into the two roles inhabited until recently by Julie and in an ongoing capacity by Anika as the Youth and Student House Program Worker/Co-ordinator.



We participated in a formal liturgy during which Julie returned the symbols of her ministry to Shawn as Council Chairperson to hold in safe keeping for the new Children & Families Co-ordinator and Ian dissolved the Ministry Team in its current formation. Ian offered a prayer of blessing and we say 'For you deep stillness'.



### Julie's words of farewell

#### from her role as Children and Families Co ordinator.

During the week, when Ian asked me what I might like to say in this moment during worship I said I thought I had the words already written: they appear as the dedication in Spinifex Blessing vol 3:

for my ministry team and colleagues  
and the community at Brunswick Uniting Church  
thank you for all you are to me  
and all you point me towards  
no one could ask for more

I still mean that! I also remarked that in the last 4 ½ years we had seen young people making transitions from school to work and university, others going into their VCE years, others leaving Primary School and starting in Secondary School. We had seen children go from the beginning years in Primary School to upper Primary, others going from pre-school into school. We had welcomed babies into our midst and watched babies learn to talk and become toddlers and learn to walk. These are the ones among us familiar with the miracle of transformation, they bring us closer to knowing the Divine Presence. Let us keep listening to them.

Later at morning tea I thanked the current and previous Chairpersons of the Children Youth and Young Adults Committee. From Philip Potter, thru Darren White to the current Chairperson Anita Major, they are among the hardest working people I know. The job cannot be done without them and the committee around them.





I also thanked Ian for the magnificent blend of discipline and focus alongside the capacity to play and rest that he models so strongly. Even though my young adults remind me that 'Jesus isn't trending' I am grateful to Ian for re-introducing me to Jesus – whom I have known for sometime but I am curious all over again.



Finally I recalled a Children's Address Anika Jensen had invented where we wondered if being tall made us closer to God. (Pete Blair has since added a whole new layer to this!) Anika got the children to line up in order of height and then went along the line proclaiming each and every one of them to be 'holy'. Holy indeed, and as the shortest member of the ministry team I was very glad to hear this proclamation.

**Julie Perrin, July 2017**



## Thank you from SMP

**At morning tea, Tameka and Amelie Major Brown made these speeches:**



**Tameka:** Julie started when I was 6, Amelie was 4 and Matilda was only one year old. Julie tells the best stories.

I loved doing big craft projects with Julie & I remember we once made glass painted windows.



Julie taught me how God is always in our hearts and will never not love you or be apart from us.

She taught us the Lord's prayer a few years ago and I still remember because of the way she explained it.



**Amelie:** I always hope that Julie is on Sunday morning program because she is a good teacher. She always has good craft activities. To tell stories Julie would use felts and wooden carved people to tell stories, it made it feel like we were in that place with the story and the people.

Julie has made a big difference, by helping the kids understand what God really about.

She has taught me about the ways of God.



**Tameka:** We are very sad that Julie is leaving but glad she is still in our community so we can keep in touch.

**Amelie:** Julie should be very proud of herself because she has done a great job.

**Tameka:** We are sure she will be very successful in writing and we wish her a great future.

As God is always in our hearts, Julie you will always be in ours.



*Just a note that these photos are, unfortunately, not in any kind of chronological order. I hope you enjoyed the randomness.*

### From the JAM Committee

This year the Justice & Mission Committee is taking on a very intentional role in supporting committees and programs that we have a clear connection with - Olive Way, BUC Arts, FUNdraising, Food Co-op, Stewart Lodge and the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre (ASWC). JAM has facilitated an update of governance of the Olive Way (Kirsty is our Olive Way contact), and members have direct input into BUC Arts, Fundraising and Food Coop. Read on for some more stories.



The compost bins were renewed and labelled during our recent working bee. Many thanks to Abi for bringing enthusiastic fellow composters to make this happen.

The **landscaping project** is taking shape. Alyce Verheijden has prepared a design which will be reviewed by the landscaping group and presented at the August Council meeting. We are looking forward to the re-imaging of our shared green space.

### Olive Way

Its been really cold of late. Have you noticed? Perhaps its the Queenslander in me, but I really feel the cold. And sitting with people who are homeless hasn't been easy, especially for them! The sense of need and desperation that people have when they know how cold it is outside and that they have no protection against it creates significant anxiety and stress for them.

Over the course of the year I have gotten to know a fellow who has been homeless for around 20 years - I'll call him 'Jim'. He is in 60s, has multiple disabilities, and yet has only been able to get on Newstart. Whilst another Olive Way guest has been on holidays, he has kindly offered Jim his place to stay in as a caretaker. It was wonderful to see the transformation in Jim from this one kindness. He appeared confident and excited by life, his face was visibly brighter, and he started making plans.

However, things changed, and changed rather fast. The place that was offered him was no longer available, meaning Jim had only a couple of days before he had to vacate. Jim's face changed, he appeared stressed, and I noticed him start to twitch. I desperately wanted to help him, so I went and looked at our folder of community resources to see if there was any place I could send him to get help. As I went through the list

We are looking forward to hosting or supporting a number of special events in the coming months

- BUC Arts 'Knit In' on **5th August**, noon-4pm, see page 8
- A screening of '[Bag It](#)' after Food Co-op on **19th August**, 12:30pm, BYO plastic free lunch, stay on for conversation
- Disco Bingo on **16th September**, a FUNdraising event to support the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network to organize a speaking tour. See FUNdraising events
- Joan Fisher preaching on **17th September** for [World Week for Peace](#), a FUNdraising stall after worship will support [EAPPI](#)
- A civil dialogue exploring the [Uluru Statement](#) in **2018**.

The JAM committee always enjoys a meal as part of our meetings. And we'd love to welcome new members. We usually meet on a Thursday every 4-6 weeks. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 3rd August**. Please let one of us know if you want join us (Saide Cameron, Kirsty Bennett, Meredith Budge, Abi Benham-Bannon, Gwen Arnold, Leanne Salau).

**Saide Cameron**

with him it became apparent that each of the places listed would not be able to help him. It was heartbreaking to think that there was nothing I could do.

However, as I was talking about this with another Olive Way guest she informed me of another agency that I had not heard of, one that had helped her get her commission house; and Jim clearly fit the eligibility criteria for assistance. I don't know if they will be able to help him if he goes there, but I was encouraged by this encounter. Our little community is surprisingly resourceful. Part of my role and the role of volunteers as we interact with our guests, is to help harness those resources, putting them to use in helping to build our knowledge bank, and ultimately helping our guests connect with those helps.

There are many ways to help out in Olive Way, if you have a spare day up your sleeve please get in touch. We also welcome one-off days. If you do think you might have a spare day but don't think you'll be able to volunteer on an on-going basis please get in touch:

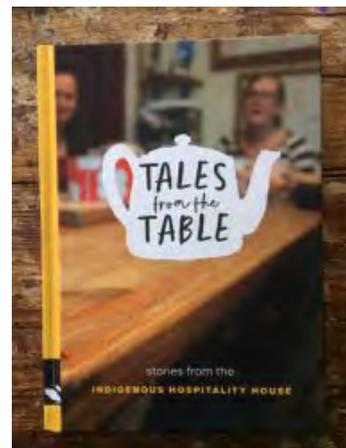
Email: [buc.oliveway@gmail.com](mailto:buc.oliveway@gmail.com), or [petebliar75@gmail.com](mailto:petebliar75@gmail.com).

**Peter Blair**, Olive Way Co-ordinator.

## Indigenous Hospitality House

Our connection with the IHH stems from its very beginnings when members of the former South West Brunswick congregation had a vision to create a welcoming space for indigenous people seeking medical treatment. We continue to pray for this ministry and some members of our congregation offer occasional practical support. In this spirit we offer this story about the release of a new book from the IHH.

The Indigenous Hospitality House is pleased to announce the release of our new book. *Tales from the Table* gathers together a range of things that our household has been learning as Settler (non-Indigenous) people sharing our home with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, on stolen land. While the practical part of our mission is providing hospital accommodation, we also recognise that we have a role to play in helping Settler people rethink Australian and Christian identity in light of our colonial history. We hope that this book can help extend those conversations into the wider community. Resident Tom Allen has written a [review](#), which you can read [here](#). You can buy a copy at our web store at [ihh.org.au](http://ihh.org.au). Please let Richard Arnold, 0407 796 429, know if you want a copy or if you want to drop in and pick up your copy you can stick around for a cup of tea and a chat.



Saide Cameron

## World Week for Peace



The World Council of Churches invites member churches, faith-based communities, and

civil society organizations around the world to join together for a week of prayer for just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Congregations and individuals around the globe who share the hope of justice shall unite during the week to take peaceful actions, together, to create a common international public witness.

At Brunswick UC we will respond to this invitation. Rev Joan Fisher, a participant in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine & Israel will preach on Sunday 17th September and we will also host two FUNdraising events for EAPPI, see below.

This year, 2017, marks several historic anniversaries of great importance to the history and development of the situation in Israel and Palestine and to the ecumenical community's response to this situation – including 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, 50 years since the Six Day War of 1967, and 10 years since the 2007 WCC International Peace Conference "Churches together for Peace and Justice in the Middle East" in Amman, Jordan. Find out more [here](#).

You might also like to respond to the invitation to write a prayer of support in just 68 words as a way of marking the 68 word [Balfour Declaration](#). More details [here](#).

Saide Cameron

## BUC Arts

### Let Us Help Create a Circle of Peace Felt Around the World

*Create a work of art using handmade felt which symbolizes peace or unconditional love to give to & receive from your peace partner somewhere else in the world!*



**WHY?** For International Day of Peace, we have the opportunity to create a handmade felt that symbolises peace or unconditional love to give and receive to our peace partner somewhere else in the world! It is a way to connect every country and a symbol of peace to be FELT in hearts across the world.

**HOW?** On the **27th of August** as we gather together for the community lunch, please join me in creating a wet felted piece that reflects Brunswick Uniting's experience of peace and inclusion for 2017. The finished product will be sent to our FELT partner (to be determined and located somewhere in the world!) and in exchange, we will receive their felted piece.

It is a symbolic celebration of the [International Day of Peace](#), **21st September 2017** and can be displayed on that day.

**NEXT STEPS**.....please contact Ann Soo on 0422 842 244 if you are interested to take part on **27/8/17** after Worship and during our community lunch. All materials will be supplied but please bring your own wool oddments and ideas along! It will be fun!



**Knit In Reminder:** We will be gathering together on **5th August** from noon to 4pm to stitch up the many squares we have been receiving over a cup of tea and in the warmth of the Olive Way! We will also have the opportunity to discuss our next knitting project with everyone – we will be making knitted nativity sets to sell at our Christmas Bowl Appeal stall for end of the year. Yes, it does seem early but Glenice and I have cut down the process and got it all ready and ensuring ease and success. Please join us.

Ann Soo

## Peacemaking in the Modern World



On **Tuesday 25th July** Tim Budge introduced Jasmine who spoke to us about her experiences and work with the Christian Peacemakers Team in Hebron. The JAM committee co-hosted this event with the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network.

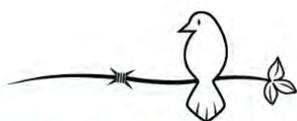
Jasmine's stories were gruelling, disturbing and inspiring. She told us about checkpoints, ID and bag checks and body searches, all of which are a part of everyday life for people going to school and work. Jasmine told us about the continual harassment and violence which the Palestinian people are subjected to including the random nature of patrols, home invasions, closing of turnstiles at checkpoints, violent encounters and arrests without cause. She read a quote from a previous Israeli soldier who spoke about the deliberate nature of this harassment.

Part of Jasmine's work is to monitor the checkpoints and keep count of what happens there and she confirmed that the harassment has escalated in recent years. We learnt about Settler tours and one Palestinian man's non-violent response in setting up Palestinian tours.

Jasmine is returning to Hebron for another 12 months. When asked why she does this work and what gives her hope she spoke of starting the day with a time of reflection with co-workers, her love of friends and good food, about Jewish Israelis who refuse to join the army as a form of non-violent resistance, about Jewish peace groups that support communities, about families who stay and continue to try and live a normal life.



Saide Cameron



christian peacemaker teams

CPT works with partners to determine how their support can be most effective. Find out more about their work [here](#). Jasmine encouraged us to be aware and to pray for peace.

## FUNdraising Update

At the time of publication of this month's OB edition the Cabaret was still to happen so more on that next month.

Coming up is a big weekend of FUNdraising to accompany the World Week for Peace.

Brunswick UC will be a foundation sponsor of a 2018 speaking tour being organized by the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network. The focus of this speaking tour will be to change public attitudes towards the Middle East. The speaker will engage with congregations, journalists and politicians about the reality of life for Palestinians with a view to seeking support from the public to encourage politicians to develop a more balanced policy with respect to the Middle East.

We only have to remember other situations of seeming intractability (South Africa, Timor Leste, the Berlin Wall, Ireland) to encourage us to continue the vital work of praying for and seeking peace for Palestine Israel.

The weekend begins on **16th September** with Disco Bingo - the most fun you can have sitting down - hosted by Alistair Hunter.

Our after worship stall on **Sunday 17th September** will provide another way to raise funds for this important tour. Come along ready to spend up on preserves, baked goods and other creative offerings. The stall is likely to be available after worship the following Sunday.

Saide Cameron

## Food Co-op



The Food Co-op sponsored a Composting workshop recently. People learned about composting, worm farms and bokashi systems. Three of our members are helping Abi to manage the compost bins in the BUC garden.

Food Co-op current Membership is 50 households (that's 61 individuals). We share in the management and monthly operations of the Co-op. The 2017 Committee is Sheryl Ashley, Meredith Budge, Helen Rowe and Fiona Hocking (from the Indigenous Hospitality House). Catherine Mullen,

Christine Hornby and Sheryll Coulson have important roles also. We meet on the **third Saturday of the month** in the Olive Way room. By purchasing bulk supplies and distributing products to members in their own reusable containers we are helping to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic. Simple!



Helen Rowe

## > Presbytery News

Kate Scull, Helen Rowe and I journeyed down to Hoppers Crossing for the Presbytery meeting Saturday 22 July 2017. I could say that Helen came with me to navigate and make sure I didn't get lost in this part of the world. However she really came to allow people to talk with her about the Safe Church/Child Program during the breaks.

As usual it was great to hear some of the things going on in our Presbytery, Port Phillip West (PPW) and to have time to talk with others. Here are some brief notes on items discussed:

- Tim Smith from a non-profit organisation called "Kids Hope Aus" gave a talk on this program. It is an off-shoot of World Vision, has Tim Costello as Patron and provides Churches with an opportunity to partner with a local Primary School and provide one-to-one volunteer mentoring to vulnerable children. Crossroads Werribee UC is one Church which has joined the program and Sandra Savory told some stories of this Church's experiences. You can find out more via their website [www.kidshopeaus.org.au](http://www.kidshopeaus.org.au)

- There was a moving celebration for receiving John Rigby and Judy Rigby as ministers into the Uniting Church



- Peter Weeks and Juliette Tautala were voted to attend the UCA National Assembly as the Presbytery Minister representatives. A volunteer lay person representative is still required

- The Geelong Interchurch Social Justice Network is focusing on finding alternatives to jailing young offenders, realising jail is particularly unhelpful for kids
- Peter Jewell from Corio-Norlane UC spoke about their mission activity, the Village Listening Lounge. It is much like our Olive Way, has been running about 19 years and uses a small room in Corio Central shopping centre. The room is provided rent-free by the management. Volunteers come from both the community and church
- Adam McIntosh led a discussion and vote to recommend to PPW Presbytery asking for financial assistance to keep two Uniting Share Agencies in Geelong operational. They had lost their funding from Share for 2017
- The PPW Presbytery boundaries may change to include a few churches in Preston that are currently in the Yarra Yarra Presbytery. There is a need for them to be included in PPW in order to make working with nearby PPW churches easier. Both Presbyteries need to agree to the request for Synod to make this change
- Recent media coverage regarding the connection between domestic violence and religion has prompted a flurry of responses in various media. Rachel Kronberger has written a statement which in the main states that the UCA and PPW are against violence anywhere. It was agreed to send this statement out to congregations and to request the Moderator of the UCA to make a public press release to the same effect.

Jane Allardice

## > Pastoral Care News

### Community Team

We enjoy hosting and celebrating all the ways we gather as a community. In July we hosted the Cafe Style Morning Tea on the final Sunday of the school holidays (**16th July**) which was followed by the Working Bee. A spontaneous lunch was organized for the hungry workers with delicious pastries from Manakish and cake from our emergency morning tea supplies.

We're looking forward to hosting the soup & rolls for the final Sunday in Winter, **27th August**. Stay on after worship to participate in a felt making worship for World Week for Peace,



see BUC Arts News, p?? and then enjoy an array of delicious soups with rolls and a fruit platter to follow. We welcome all offers of soups and willing hands to set up and serve.

We'll be hosting an afternoon tea for World Week for Peace on **Saturday 16th September**. More details in the Olive Press closer to the date.

Triple Letter Dinners have been moved to the second weekend in November, **10th, 11th & 12th November** due to our big focus on the World Week for Peace in September. Keep the weekend free for this wonderful way of gathering as a community.

Saide Cameron

## > Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

### Children & Families co-ordinator

Presbytery have given the CY&YA committee permission to advertise for a Pastor to fill the position of the Children & Families Co-ordinator. As this will process take some time an interim position will be advertised internally, ie within the congregation. This 10 hour position will be responsible for organizing the Sunday Morning Program and possibly the occasional playgroup.

## Student House and Youth News

We've all been on holidays throughout the past few weeks, so not a whole heap of news. The students are getting back into second semester and youth back into term 3! From all accounts, it was a much needed time to relax either in Melbourne, interstate or overseas.

A couple of things to note are that we're still looking for a new member of the student house community! So please let me know if you know any suitable students!

And finally, two of the epic YUCY assistants, Gen and Max, are calling it a day for now. They're needing to focus on VCE and life things, which is a great idea. Thank you so much for your hard work, friendship and fun in making the younger teenagers feel safe and in community!



## Student House Faith Spot

Hi everybody! My name is Emily Kidd in case you weren't aware. This is my fourth year in the student house program and the BUC community, and it has been an experience and a half with so much support and fun along the way. I am now less than 6 months away from finishing my degree in Primary Education, with lots to look forward to out in the teaching world next year.



In light of the celebration of Olive Way turning 10 this year, I also just wanted to talk a little bit about my experiences volunteering in the space over the last couple of years. I have found that it is such an open and welcoming environment, where you meet and get to know so many individuals, have a dozen interesting conversations in one morning, and drink a lot of coffee. And even though the dishes seem never ending... the sense of community is so special, and meaningful to so many of us; the volunteers and the visitors. It never fails to make me smile to see some of our regulars on the street or at Savers in Brunswick, and they ask me if I'll be at Olive Way this week.

I hope everyone has had a blessed year so far and it continues as such.

## YUCY Dates

Fridays 28th July, 11th & 25th August, 8th & 22nd September

## > News

### Out and About Group

We enjoyed a guided Dome to Dungeon tour at the State Library. Two groups each of ten people visited in June. Out and Abouters continue to be involved in many activities of the congregation - helping with hospitality, pastoral care, on the Food Co-op roster, gardening and working bees, welcoming and morning tea. We really enjoy chatting with people of all ages.



### The Art and Practice of Oral Storytelling

For the past two years we have hosted Easter Storytelling during Holy Week bringing together a group of storytellers to tell the Passion of Christ. All of the participants, including Fiona Bottcher (recently) and Saide Cameron (many years ago) have participated in a storytelling course at different times offered by Julie Perrin and Christina Rowntree. It is quite an amazing experience to engage in the practice of storytelling.



This course is now offered through the Centre of Theology and Ministry with the next unit in September. The unit addresses performance skills and contemplative listening as well as tools for storytelling from memory. These tools and practices will be identified and explored, drawing on a repertoire of sacred texts and poetry from major religious traditions.

Visit the CTM website: <http://pilgrim.edu.au/events/the-art-practice-of-oral-storytelling/> for more details. You can also watch Julie and Fiona talking about the course: <https://vimeo.com/207406419>

### BUC Cycle



Five enthusiastic cyclists had a very enjoyable ride after worship on **23rd July** heading off down along Moonee Ponds Creek onto Footscray Rd all the way to Williamstown where they had lunch before retracing their 'steps' back to Brunswick. A small deluge dampened their clothing but not their spirits. Save the date for the next ride after worship on 20th August. Contact Colin, 0407 522 587, for more information.



## > Regular Events

### BUC Cycle

Join an enthusiastic group of cyclists after worship every 5-6 weeks and explore Melbourne's bike tracks. We head off after worship and cycle for about two hours and usually stop off for icecream and/or a drink along the way. For more details contact Colin Hunter, 0407 522 587.

Our next ride is after worship on **Sunday 20th August**.

### Singing The Sacred Harp

The Sacred Harp Singing is a group of people who meet to sing from a book called "The Sacred Harp". This music is participatory, a cappella, loud, folk hymn singing, which originates from the USA. The book "The Sacred Harp" is a collection of shape note songs from various sources, from the 1770's to the present day. All singers of all abilities are welcome to come as often (or as infrequently) as they are able.

The style of music sounds something like a cross between Eastern European and Irish folk music. For more information on Sacred Harp music please visit [www.fasola.org](http://www.fasola.org)

Come along & join us on the **first Sunday** of every month, from 4pm-6pm in the hall. Contact Natalie Sims or Shawn Whelan, ph. 9495 6120, or email [sacred\\_harp@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sacred_harp@yahoo.com.au)

### Table Church

We gather to share a simple meal of soup & bread and dessert on **Sunday evenings**, (6-7:30pm), shaped by a liturgy that invites us to reflect on the week that has passed and to pray for each other. The shape of the evening is informal and low-stress.

Everyone is welcome and you can come every fortnight or just as you are available. Next two dates: **6th August**, hosted by Helen & Mal Rowe, 94 McPherson St., Essendon, **20th August**, venue to be advised.

If you are interested, or just want to know a little more, please contact Tim (0412 051 574) or Helen (0423 009 813).

### Mulling

Leesl Wegner will be leading the conversation for August Mulling 'Dadiir - Deep Listening ... and other ways of paying attention'.

**Tuesday 1st August** from 7:00pm at Kimberly and Simone's, 8/2 Cumming St., West Brunswick. For more details, contact Leesl 0423 265 538.

### Meditation

There are four Meditation groups available

With Richard: **First Sundays**, 8:15 am in the Youth Hall

**Wednesday at 8am** or **5:30pm** at 29 MacFarland St.

On-line every **Monday night** at **9.30pm** to **10.00pm**

Contact Richard Arnold, 0407 796 429, for more information.

### The Olive Way

Our congregation's outreach program is open on **Tuesday to Thursday** from 10 am - 1:30 pm. Community Kitchen, & Art programs - Wednesday, Writing Workshop - Thursday.

New volunteers are always welcome.

Contact Peter Blair, ph. 0431 193 810.

### Book Club at BUC

facilitated by Jeanette Acland

7.30 – 9 pm, **Wednesday 23 August 2017**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

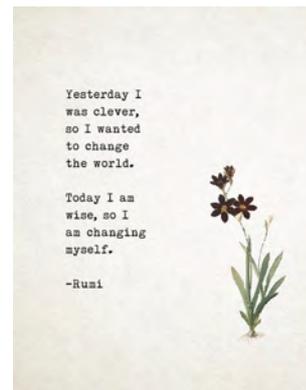
We have decided to do something different in August. Bring along a favourite poem to share and discuss with the group.

*NB. There will be no book club in September*

Everyone welcome. Faye or Christine would be happy to talk to you about book club if you would like more information.

Faye 9379 1317 [faye.findlay18@gmail.com](mailto:faye.findlay18@gmail.com)

or Christine 9386 8919 [christine@hornby.id.au](mailto:christine@hornby.id.au)



### Out and About Group

A monthly social group for older, active women and men. We visit places of interest or meet up for lunch or coffee. New members always welcome. See notice in the Olive Press or contact Helen Rowe for further information about this month's activity. Ph. 0423 009 813 or email [helen.rowe@rocketmail.com](mailto:helen.rowe@rocketmail.com)

### Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Next Food Co-op Distribution Day - **Saturday 19th August** from 10 am - 12 noon.

New members welcome! Bring your reusable glass, plastic, paper or cloth containers to purchase from a range of over 60 food and cleaning products. Reasonable prices. We aim to reduce our ecological footprint on the Earth by distributing food and cleaning products free of additional packaging. We meet in the Olive Way space. Food Co-op is a ministry of our congregation.

Further information from Helen Rowe 0423 009 813

or Meredith Budge 0403 717 714

## > Reports

### Property Committee



*The following activities have been undertaken/completed over the past month:*

- Working Bee was held on 16th July, during which the following was undertaken gardening, clean up & removal of the sand pit and swing in front (north) of the youth hall was removed.
- Ascertained that a planning permit will be required for the installation of the shed(s) to the north of the youth hall.
- The leak in the hall roof has been attended to.
- The 4 Merri Street roof has been repaired re-screwed down. It doesn't need to be replaced at this time.
- Lighting on the ramp has been attended to, not the pipes on the uprights on the ramp at the front of the church.
- Process provided to the ASWC in relation to the raising of property issues, awaiting response and submissions for alterations.
- Recommendation that the plant pots in the walkway be removed due to their state of disrepair, the suitability of the plants and their upkeep.
- Sewage blockage in the toilets was attended to. Objects have been placed down the sewage pipes that shouldn't have been.
- A simplified sign has been prepared and installed on the hall dishwasher to aid users in its use

*The following activities are being attended to over the coming months:*

- Repair the heater on the south wall in the west end of the hall. Initially the gas is ignited, however it won't maintain the gas flow. Plumber has attended 3 times however the hall has been in use.

- Smoking on the church property. Signs have been prepared and will be installed near the Olive Way, Hall and Youth Hall doors. Signs to be reprinted and installed.
- The storage space (shed) in front of the youth hall has been assessed and its allowable size has been determined. The groups that wish to utilise the space will be engaged. Current proposal is multiple sheds, with separate doors. Need to ascertain the size requirements of each shed.
- A community garden proposal (being led by Anita Brown-Major) is being developed for the church's property. The current thinking is, it will be located in the south west corner of the property along the Sydney Rd foot path.
- A door closer is to be installed on the door between the Olive Way and the hall, that will ensure that it closes slowly, also that it is able to be held open.
- Synod Annual Child Safety Check ongoing actions are being taken to conform. Food Co-op updated their MSDS.
- Cause of the leaks in the church has been Investigated and identified. Laurie to organise a cherry picker to access the impacted area.
- Install posts and cabin hooks to hold the youth hall south doors open as required. The posts have been brought to the church.
- Youth hall internal office door to be replaced with an external rate door. A door has been obtained, it now requires fitting.
- Repairs being undertaken to the external lighting, particularly the bollards.
- Ascertain the service requirements of the dishwasher's chemical pump also the replacement of the pipes.
- Replacement of the rangehood at 1/278-280 Brunswick Rd.

**Ray Cameron**

### Communication Update

Our website designer has returned from holidays and will respond to requests to join the membership area during the week. Visit the website to join or via this [link](#).

In the next couple of weeks Ian, Shawn and I will be trained as administrators of the website so we can also approve requests.

The Members Area is still very much under development so all feedback is welcome as with any other part of the new website.

Thank you for all the feedback that we've received so far.

**Saide Cameron**

## Worship Committee

For our opening worship in July Helen invited us to select verses from her treasure chest of rolled up verses, a fun way to begin our meeting. We prayed and then enjoyed our monthly review of the previous week's worship services.

The '**work of worship**' and specifically the tasks involved in setting up for and packing up after worship have been documented and disseminated to welcomers, prayers of the people leaders, liturgists and elders to enable these tasks to be shared by a much broader group of people. The elegance of this new approach is that it doesn't involve a new set of rosters but rather empowers people who are already rostered to help with preparing our spaces for worship.

We had a very brief conversation about the **pageant**. We are delighted that Caitlin Mullen & Rachel Beagley have once again offered their considerable gifts to shape and lead this celebration of our faith. The first planning meeting for the pageant will be held after worship on **Sunday 13th August**.

You might not have noticed yet but we have - **Advent 4 and Christmas Eve** are on the same day this year! This means 3 services on the one day!! To that end we have discussed how best to manage our resources and will be making a set of recommendations to Council. More details next month.

Progress is being made on installing a **new shed** to create more functional spaces for storing some of our resources together with those of BUC Arts and the ASWC. Kirsty has provided her professional advice which the Property Committee is now investigating. It may take a little while but we are confident that it will definitely be worth it.

Work on our **second collection of songs** is about to begin again. We are planning to make the songs available for free download from our website.

We are delighted that **Ameila Ware** will be joining our committee. If you would like to join please let one of us know (Saide Cameron, Kirsty Bennet, Natalie Sims, Helen Burnham, Ian Ferguson).

**2/7 Pentecost 4 Genesis 22:1-14, Matthew 10:40-42** Julie and Ian told the challenging story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac, addressing a number of "curly questions" (curly like the horns of a ram) to it including: **1.** Is that really what God is like?, **2.** Why would God want that?!, **3.** What has God got against sheep?, **4.** How does God provide?, **5.** Do Julie and Ian have the answers to all these questions? The children then did an activity writing their own curly theological questions.

In his sermon Ian explored the difficult story of Isaac and Abraham with the assistance of Sarah Silverman, a Jewish American Atheist comedian. He invited us to ponder the apparent dilemma of a God who loves, '*who gives with one hand and takes with the other*'. Ian also shared the writings of Biblical scholar Walter Bruggemann, spoke of '*the great joy and love and hope*' that he feels in his faith and reminded us of Jesus' suffering on the cross.

He concluded '*The only thing that makes me able to countenance the story of Abraham and Isaac is the idea that in Christ God enters into the test, embraces the contradictions. God hang on the cross and simultaneously God suffers the loss of an only Son. Isaac and Abraham were spared this suffering but God does not spare Godself. In Christ, God is tested and found faithful even in death. And from there rises the joy. Out of the death of who we think God is there rises the reality of faith and hope for the world, a new way of living and loving. There rises a birth that not even death can hold back. There rises the joy.*



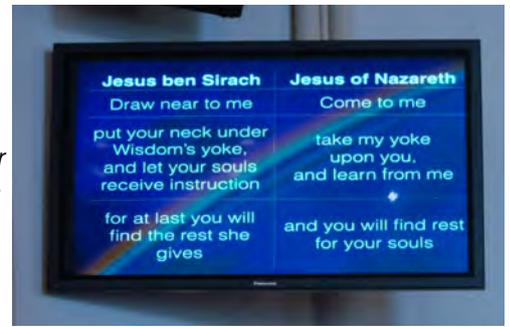
**9/7 Pentecost 5 Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30** Steph Gesling joined us for worship on her brief visit home from her supply ministry in Broome. Ian and Steph spoke about the similarities between our congregation and Steph's - the initials BUC and one big difference - the number of musicians, usually none at Broome compared to our abundance. Steph taught us one of Broome UC's favourite songs - 'I see God'. Talking about this song we realised together that we can see God in each other and in the things we do together.



Ian used Jesus' reference to Sophia, Lady Wisdom, to talk about the gender of God.

He spoke of his devastation at his daughter's question '*Dad, how come God is always a man?*' and his response to this, asking '*How do you feel about the use of feminine language for God?*' Ian commented on our emerging understanding as a society of gender as a spectrum and wondered '*where Jesus is on the gender spectrum*'. He shared the writings of Jesus Ben Sira demonstrating the similarities between these and Jesus' words.

He concluded: *Ben Sirach points to wisdom. Jesus identifies with her. He is saying 'I am she, the incarnation of Mother Wisdom. All things came into being through me. I will teach you how to live. You will find wisdom and rest under my yoke. I am she.'* There are many other places in the New Testament where ancient writers identify Jesus with Sophia. It's there submerged and suppressed but a real part of our Scripture and tradition, a real part of the nature of our God. This tradition says that his divinity is a feminine divinity. So what does that mean for us? Let's sit with that for a minute and then we'll sing about wisdom.



Later in the service Steph shared stories of her ministry in Broome, of the strong sense of community, the sharing of hospitality and the vitality and importance of the rebuilt Op Shop. Steph is returning to Broome for another period of Supply Ministry while the congregation awaits the arrival of another supply minister and the eventual appointment a minister to replace Chris & Helen.



**16/7 Pentecost 6 Matthew 13:1-23** During Children's Time Ian and Saide invited the children to explore the different parts of the Parable of Sower, wondering how it would feel to be on the path, in the stony ground, among the thorns and finally in the good soil. We wondered about parables and why Jesus told them to people and agreed that these stories help us to see God in new ways.

Deciding not to talk about George Pell, Ian instead took us on a journey through the movie Paul, a science fiction spoof, about which Ian commented *it's also a parable about faith and I think it illumines the way faith is represented in popular culture today and how that representation contrasts with the parables of Jesus.* Having shown us clips from the movie he said *Now I assume, I could be wrong about this, I assume Paul the alien is named after the apostle Paul who popular criticism says is to blame for Christianity, like a sort of ancient George Pell. Now I don't agree with that criticism but here is a new Paul symbolising a new faith – scientism, the faith of the enlightenment.*



Concluding Ian spoke about singing the goodness of creation, of the different ways of being and seeing and knowing, of religion, science, art music, dance. And finally *'Of course we apply intellect and reason to our faith but ultimately don't we practice something here that is more like dancing to a compelling rhythm or singing in harmony with a great choir, the choir of creation. And no not everyone gets it. Some people will listen to a symphony orchestra and fall asleep, not everyone gets jazz, not everyone gets post hard-core anarcho-punk, musical tastes are one of the wonderful things that define us as individuals. Why doesn't everyone just listen to the same music or dance to the same music? Why doesn't everyone embrace the truth of Jesus' teaching? Why don't more people share our experience of religion? Because the sower went out to sow. Amen.*

**23/7 Pentecost 7 Romans 8:12-25, Genesis 28:10-19a** The rest of the Ministry Team joined Ian to help out with the Children's Talk as part of our celebration of Julie's ministry as Children & Families Co-ordinator. Ian affirmed the conclusion of her ministry and that she will continue to be a member of our congregation. They talked about what they will miss and then invited the children to offer their thoughts about this as well. They talked about the things that will change and those that won't. Ian reminded us that Julie will still be a child of God and we enjoyed working out which of the photos matched our ministry team as we see them now. We concluded praying the Lord's Prayer with the now familiar actions. See page 3 for more.



*Friends the Lord be with you – And also with you.* Ian offered this greeting and we offered the traditional response as the opening to his sermon. Ian invited us to 'hear this greeting as an echo out of the story of Jacob and to reflect with me on the how, the where and the who of God's presence with us.' Ian took us on journey to and through the in between in his own encounter with a rainbow bee eater, with Jacob, our Uniting Church and Jesus. And along the way he repeated and extended God's promise to Jacob and to us, commenting that 'It's a powerful promise to receive from whoever gives it and especially so when the promise giver is God.'

Concluding Ian offered this invitation 'So friends lets embrace our place, let's embrace our place as the church, as children of God, sons and daughters of Jacob among others. Not like the ziggurat, another imperial power, another abuse of democracy, another crumbling monument but like true children of God, out in the in between places of life, there to enter into renewing relationships with the one who embraces our frailty with transforming love. Yes let's do that all together, one more time, in the subjunctive mood 'Children of God, as she was with Jacob subverting the mighty powers of the earth entering as a vision of hope into the in between and becoming incarnate in our frailty so may the God of promise and faithfulness be with you – and also with you. Amen



Saide Cameron

## > Happy Birthday

Nick Allan, Rosemary Brown, William Coulson-Burke, Kristin Dahl, Hannah Denison, James Dobson, Ian Ferguson, Jeremy Hardman, Ingrid Hollis, Christine Hornby, Chelsea Hunter, Rachel Kronberger, Bridget McNamara, Kilian McNamara, Clancy Moore, Andrew Moorhouse, Meg Moorhouse, Caitlin Mullen. Genevieve Mullen, Kirsten Parris, Philip Potter, Jan Sebastian, Monty Winkler

## > Preaching Plan

|           |  |              |   |            |   |
|-----------|--|--------------|---|------------|---|
| August 6  | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Pentecost 9,<br/>Holy Communion</b> | September 3  | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Pentecost 13,<br/>Holy Communion</b> | October 1  | Sunny Chen<br><b>Pentecost 17,<br/>Holy Communion</b> |
| August 13 | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Pentecost 10</b>                    | September 10 | Kirsten Parris<br><b>Pentecost 14</b>                   | October 8  | Graeme Garrett<br><b>Pentecost 18</b>                 |
| August 20 | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Pentecost 11</b>                    | September 17 | Joan Fisher<br><b>Pentecost 15</b>                      | October 15 | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Pentecost 19</b>                   |
| August 27 | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Pentecost 12</b>                    | September 24 | Carlyne Nunn<br><b>Pentecost 16</b>                     | October 22 | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Pentecost 20</b>                   |

## > Lectionary

### After Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with feast of Christ the King

| Date | Day          | First Reading   | Psalm                         | Second Reading    | Gospel               | C |
|------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| 6/8  | Pentecost 9  | Gn 32:22-31     | Ps 17:1-7, 15                 | Rom 9:1-5         | Mt 14:13-21          | G |
| 13/8 | Pentecost 10 | Gn 37:1-4,12-28 | Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b       | Rom 10:5-15       | Mt 14:22-33          | G |
| 20/8 | Pentecost 11 | Gn 45:1-15      | Ps 133                        | Rom 11:1-2a,29-32 | Mt 15: (10-20),21-28 | G |
| 27/8 | Pentecost 12 | Ex 1:8 – 2:10   | Ps 124                        | Rom 12:1-8        | Mt 16:13-20          | G |
| 3/9  | Pentecost 13 | Ex 3:1-15       | Ps 105:1-6,23-26,45c          | Rom 12:9-21       | Mt 16:21-28          | G |
| 10/9 | Pentecost 14 | Ex 12:1-14      | Ps 149                        | Rom 13:8-14       | Mt 18:15-20          | G |
| 17/9 | Pentecost 15 | Ex 14:19-31     | Ps 114 or Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21 | Rom 14:1-12       | Mt 18:21-35          | G |
| 24/9 | Pentecost 16 | Ex 16:2-15      | Ps 105:1-6, 37-45             | Phil 1:21-30      | Mt 20:1-16           | G |
| 1/10 | Pentecost 17 | Ex 17:1-7       | Ps 78:1-4, 12-16              | Phil 2:1-13       | Mt 21:23-32          | G |

## August Diary

| Sunday   | Monday                               | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: right;">July 30</p> <p>9:30 – Ian Ferguson <b>HC</b></p> <p>4:00 – Sacred Harp<br/>5:00 – Indonesian W’p</p>   | <p style="text-align: right;">31</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">August 1</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p> <p>6:30 – Finance Committee<br/>7:00 – Mulling</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>8:00 – Meditation<br/>10:00 – Olive Way<br/>12:00 – Community Dinner</p> <p>5:30 – Meditation</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p> <p>6:45 – JAM C’tee</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>                     | <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>12:00 – Knit In<br/>2:30 – Coffee</p>                |
| <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>8:15 – Meditation<br/>9:30 – Ian Ferguson <b>HC</b></p> <p>4:00 – Sacred Harp<br/>5:00 – Indonesian W’p<br/>6:00 – Table Church</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p> <p>7:30 – Church Council</p>                              | <p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>8:00 – Meditation<br/>10:00 – Olive Way<br/>12:00 – Community Dinner</p> <p>5:30 – Meditation</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p>                        | <p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>7:30 – YUCY</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>9:30 – Ian Ferguson<br/>11:00 – Pageant planning</p> <p>5:00 – Indonesian W’p</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">14</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>8:00 – Meditation<br/>10:00 – Olive Way<br/>12:00 – Community Dinner</p> <p>5:30 – Meditation<br/>7:30 – Worship C’tee</p>                            | <p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p>                        | <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>                    | <p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>10:00 – Food Co-op<br/>12:30 – Bag It screening</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>9:30 – Ian Ferguson<br/>11:30 – BUC Cycle</p> <p>5:00 – Indonesian W’p<br/>6:00 – Table Church</p>                                 | <p style="text-align: right;">21</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p> <p>7:30 – Property C’tee</p>                             | <p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>8:00 – Meditation<br/>10:00 – Olive Way<br/>12:00 – Community Dinner</p> <p>5:30 – Meditation<br/>6:30 – Pastoral Care C’tee<br/>7:30 – Book Club</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p>                        | <p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>7:30 – YUCY</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">26</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>9:30 – Ian Ferguson<br/>11:30 – Community Lunch</p> <p>5:00 – Indonesian W’p</p>   | <p style="text-align: right;">28</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way<br/>12:00 – Community Dinner</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p>                        | <p style="text-align: right;">September 1</p>           | <p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>2:30 – Coffee</p>                                    |