

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

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

## > Meditation

### Jesus on Marriage - Mark 10:1-12

**Q. What does Jesus have to say about marriage?**

**A. Almost nothing.**

Mark 10:1-12 is the most often cited passage in the marriage equality debate. And as is often the case, the differences between Christians on this issue are to do with the way scripture is read and interpreted. Here is how I read Mark 10.

The passage describes an encounter between Jesus and some Pharisees – people particularly concerned with the application of religious law. They want to know Jesus' views on divorce. In his response to the Pharisees, Jesus quotes the story of Creation. From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.'

In the face of the push for marriage equality, some Christians are getting pretty hung up on the "God made them male and female" part of that verse. Of course, these days we are able to see that God in fact made them male and female and intersex and transgender and decorated them with a marvellous rainbow array of human sexuality. But Jesus isn't commenting on that. He is saying that the union we call marriage is founded in sex – it is a physical union that is part of the fabric of creation.

UCA theologian Bill Loader, a world authority on the bible and sex, writes: "This positive affirmation of human sexuality and sexual intercourse – something which needs to be aired in the church from time to time to counter contrary views – carries with it an implication. Sexual union (as part of total union) is so highly valued that we should not let anything undo the union it produces and celebrates." It turns out that God's contribution to marriage is not laws about who is allowed in and who is excluded, it is sex. Nice one God!

So is this passage teaching that sex and marriage can only be between a man and a woman? No, it is assuming that there are only two natural genders and one natural sexuality – things we now know to be untrue. But this doesn't matter, because what the passage is teaching is that marriage cannot lightly be put aside because it is founded in sexuality which is part of God's good creation. Take contemporary scientific insights into what

natural human sexuality encompasses in God's good creation. Put them alongside this teaching. Result, I am led to believe that such a theology of creation means contemporary marriage must be open to the full spectrum of human sexuality.

Of course marriage and other loving relationships are about more than sex. Among other things they're about power. And in Jesus's day all the power in marriage belonged to the male partner. "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ask the Pharisees – i.e. is it lawful for a man to get rid of one wife to take on another, like the disposal and purchase of property? – but not for a woman to do likewise? Jesus says, "Yes its lawful, but it's not acceptable." He thereby affirms an equality of power within marriage: neither partner has the right to dismiss the other.

Thus, Jesus speaks on behalf of the powerless of his day, in this instance, women. But religious laws have always permitted divorce. Why is he holding his followers to this higher standard? Where is the space in his teaching for us to deal with human failure, with poor choices, with betrayal and violence? Where is the grace?

It is important in this context to consider Jesus' approach to religious laws in general, and to read this one passage in the light of the whole gospel. Bill Loader writes: "Much of Jesus' energy in controversy with his fellow Jews was spent trying to show that we must interpret scripture in a way which sees its priority as concern for human well being." For example, one particular Sabbath day Jesus and his disciples were making their way through a grainfield, and as they went his disciples were plucking heads of grain (Mark 2:23-28). Now it is not lawful to reap on the Sabbath so the Pharisees had a go at Jesus, "Why are your followers disregarding the law?" And Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath." This means the Sabbath is a gift to enable us to enter into the rest and peace of God, it is not an external legal demand. So, Jesus is saying, if you are hungry on the Sabbath, glean some wheat, if you are sick on the Sabbath, seek healing, if you are oppressed on the Sabbath, work for justice. What this story shows is that Jesus proclaims the spirit rather than the

letter of the law. In the case of the Sabbath, the spirit of the law allows for doing less than the letter. In the case of marriage and divorce, the spirit of the law challenges Jesus' followers to go further than the letter for the sake of the vulnerable. In both cases, his teaching is motivated by mercy, compassion and justice. In both cases, and in every case, the spirit of the law is love.

Marriage is also a gift not a legal demand. What a crushing irony therefore, when people took Jesus' teaching in Mark 10 and made it the new letter of the law, shutting out the possibility of grace and healing, shutting out the possibility of resurrection out of the death of a marriage. The way this teaching has been applied in parts of the church – forbidding divorce, shaming the divorced, refusing to remarry divorced people – has gone against

the very nature and shape of Jesus' life while supposedly obeying his words. And it seems to me that much of the religious argument against Marriage Equality is doing the same. Jesus teaches that loving grace must be our first instinct in response to relationship needs, not legalistic condemnation.

Jesus said almost nothing about marriage, but he did affirm the importance of physical love in creation and marriage as an expression of this. He affirmed equality, justice and mercy within intimate relationships. And above all, he lived and died for an interpretation of scripture based not on legalism, but on love. All of which lead me to support Marriage Equality.

Ian Feruson

Reference: <http://wwwstaff.murdoch.edu.au/~loader/MkPentecost19.html>

## > Worship Calendar

### 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 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.

### Long Service Leave

Preachers during Ian's Long Service Leave will be

- **10th September** - Kirsten Parris
- **17th September** - Joan Fisher (World Week for Peace)
- **24th September** - Carlynne Nunn
- **1st October** - Sunny Chen (Holy Communion)
- **8th October** - Graeme Garrett

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## > Sharing our Faith

### Olive Way Reflection - 10th Anniversary

On a draft program for tonight I noticed this segment being described as a speech. But I would rather it be titled a reflection. A reflection about how an active Church taking a risk in God's name can have an impact both on a community, in this case Brunswick and surrounding suburbs, but also on the Church community itself. It is therefore a reflection about what is happening in the name of God and this Church.

Nothing in my long life has given me more pleasure than being able to stand here tonight and reflect with you about ten years of Olive Way. How this Congregation allowed our then Deacon, Richard Arnold, and me to go away and explore whether there was a Ministry that would open up these buildings during the week.

Some years before, the St Andrew's congregation at Sydney Road offered a drop in centre here as well as providing a space for the Asylum Seekers Welcome Centre. Twelve years ago they were joined by a larger congregation from South West Brunswick who were very outreach conscious but operating in a quiet street well away from the hustle and bustle of Sydney Road.

So after one month and having consulted the local Council and other nearby Churches we proposed a new drop in centre through which we would welcome the community. It was a one pager that said if it didn't work we would come back and say so. In today's world we might require a consultant and a long report.



Celebrating the Opening after worship, 10/6/07



2nd anniversary, loving it

A few weeks later (7th June 2010) we put a sandwich board on the footpath. It said "Olive Way a peaceful spot to talk, read, rest or reflect - all welcome". Catherine Mullen and I sat and waited on the first day open and three people came in.

**Two days ago on Thursday, 45 people came in to share time with us. Last December 110 came to Christmas Dinner.**

Visitors tell us how much they feel welcomed and accepted and that Olive Way has made a difference for them. We are very pleased to



be joined by some of those visitors tonight and we assure them, just in case they haven't already noticed, that at Olive Way they are accepted unconditionally. We also want them to know how much their presence has enriched the lives of workers and volunteers alike. I am reminded of a verse of a song we sing in Church - "Some days we're resurrected, we feel new life inside" We go home a bit tired but always feeling positive about something that happened that day and ready to come back next week.

There are probably 100 different reasons why our visitors seek acceptance, companionship and conversation. They are the sort of reasons many of us have had to seek help in our life. They include early deprivation; illness; loneliness; poor life choices; broken relationships; accidents; disconnection from family; unemployment, depression; lack of access to accommodation; and the list goes on. Visitors talk to us about needing to care for a sick relative; about physical abuse, and verbal abuse from neighbours. The sort of things that have at times impacted on many of us.

Except in a few cases we don't even know our visitors surnames but it doesn't matter. They come from all over the world and represent the cultural and religious diversity of Brunswick and surrounding communities. They can share something of their life journey with us or something that has bothered them that week. Sometimes we can offer practical help and other times they just appreciate a friendly ear. Increasingly they are able to have conversations with each other and sometimes we lean back and listen to the buzz as they chat. When it seems helpful we offer to spend time with them in our Church and many have attended Sunday services.



Our traditional program of refreshments on Tuesday and Thursday and a cooked lunch on Wednesday has been extended to include an Art Program in conjunction with Arts access, a writing program on Tuesday and Sydney Road Opera Company on Thursday. Piano lessons have also been much appreciated, and Church access is also appreciated by some with existing or newly acquired musical skills.

Public reflections have been offered by two visitors which tell the Olive way story better than I can. These quotes are but a précis.

Giovanni speaking at an Arts Access function at Federation Square in February said amongst other things:

*" My encounter with Arts Access at Brunswick's Olive Way was fortuitous. I thought I had stepped into a pond but it was an ocean. I was part of an exciting & vibrant network of artistic people. It brings my mates out of their lonely rooms and into the community where they can find companionship and warmth. We have somehow created a multi racial, non-judgemental, mutually supportive community"* and he goes on.

Chandra speaking in our Church some weeks ago talked about her involvement in writing and art groups and also her appreciation of a tall young handsome man called David and young and beautiful Abi who taught her to play the piano. She has suffered from depression. Quote: *"I find this place like a Doctor's prescription. Because of Olive Way we are enriched, we are happy, we have made new friends and moreover we have found kindness, feel welcomed and more"*



I also want to share two personal experiences from this week with you. I noticed a man come in who had not been in for some weeks. Turned out he had an infection. I told him he had been missed. As I got up he smiled and thanked me for the conversation.

Another regular visitor likes ground coffee rather than Nescafe. She had been there most of the day and I asked whether I could make her a cup of "fancy coffee" - my expression. She said yes and as I gave it to her she smiled and said it was her birthday the day before. It was though I had given her a birthday present. Leanne was there and will remember the incident.

Some talk to me and suggest what we do must be difficult or complicated. I think these two examples illustrate that simple kindness and interest in the wellbeing of another is the uncomplicated prerequisite.

To quote Padriag O Tuama - *"Nobody thinks that one small kindness is going to change a life. But it might change a moment, and in that moment something small can grow"*

If anything I have said has sparked you into thinking whether you may be a volunteer, we are always seeking more help. The unforeseen absence of both Peters last week highlighted the need for more depth in volunteer ranks. Talk to Peter if that spark has been lit in you.

A big thank you to our Ministers. Firstly Ray Gormann who strongly supported the concept at the outset and also showed his support



by being the Cook on a Wednesday and attending regularly at other times. Ian Ferguson has also given unstinting support through his attendance at Wednesday lunch and calling in at other times. Both of them have also cared for our leaders and other workers. To our former Deacon, Richard Arnold, my staunch partner in the initial stages. We sat near each other in Church the day Chandra spoke and both had tears in our eyes. It tends to happen in old age.



To our former leaders Carlynne Nunn and Fiona Bottcher. Almost every week someone that you cared for or influenced asks how you are. You are both warmly remembered. To Big Peter and not so big Peter, your contributions as leader and Chef/Toasted sandwich maker continue to be very much valued and appreciated.



To Ann Soo and Damian Coleridge who lead the Arts Access and Sydney Road Opera Company, our thanks for your creativity that allows our friends to express themselves in Art, Writing and Music.

To all the vollies - some shorter time and others like Helen and Leanne who have travelled with us for ten years a big thank you - never underestimate how you have impacted the lives of our visitors.



Look around and identify others in attendance by name. Catherine Mullen, Cathryn Goode, Abi Benham Bannon, David Stephens, Linda Fisher, Janet & Dave Watson Kruse, Kimberly Fraser.

I could go on for hours but must finish. Thank you for catching the Vision 10 years ago. The program is not perfect and ongoing refinement will be considered. But basically it achieves the goals established and later reinforced by internal and Presbytery Reviews.

There will clearly be an ongoing demand for this service and I hope we can meet the challenge. If it were possible to change DNA retrospectively Olive Way would be identified as part of the DNA of this Church along with the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre.

I hope what has been demonstrated by Olive Way will influence our ongoing search for new Mission fields. In terms of numbers in the Congregation and potential income we are better placed than most. We can follow the example of Jesus who showed us how to care unconditionally for others and take risks in his name.

So to finish with two very appropriate words from my old mentor, John Wesley. He said - *"Go not to those who need you but those who need you most"* and *"The best of all is, God is with us"*

Thank you for coming to join our night of thanksgiving. Enjoy yourselves.



**Barry Cook**

Reflection offered at the Olive Way Pot Luck Cabaret - celebrating 10 years of Olive Way Ministry, 29th July 2017

## Olive Way Potluck Cabaret



What an amazing and extraordinary night we had. Over 120 people gathered to celebrate 10 years of Olive Way Ministry. Tables groaned under the weight of the food we all brought to share. Ian blessed our gathering and our meal. Peter welcomed us and acknowledged the [letter of congratulations](#) sent by Peter Kahlil, MP

The program for the evening was wonderfully entertaining. Our headline act was the Sydney Rd.

Opera Company's performance of 'On the Way to Santiago'. The program included a fabulous and impromptu fashion parade with David, Rachel, Abi and Daniel, songs from Church Council, JAM committee, D&E committee, Peter Blair, Maggie Somerville, Jessica Kvanskul (with Natalie, Shawn and Alistair), Adrian Brown (with Alistair) and Rachel Beagley, David Stephens & Abi Benham Bannon; skits from the worship committee (all about socks), Mulling (Little Red Riding Hood - unforgettable) and Book Group (a Roald Dahl Poem); stories from Julie Perrin and Carlyne Nunn and an all in dance to 'Doin' the Eagle Rock' with the Pastoral Care Community Team. We laughed, listened, joined in and appreciated all that was offered.





Glenice and I catered desserts to perfection (ie no left overs). After all who can resist sticky date pudding, chocolate self-saucing pudding and apple crumble.

Between the two sets Barry offered his wonderful reflection. We sang Happy Birthday and gathered former and current leaders along with Barry and Catherine (the first two volunteers) to cut the cake. Many thanks to Sahar & Alireza Talebi for making and providing such a beautiful and delicious cake.



The pop-up Op Shop proved to a wonderful drawcard on the night raising \$487.10

and a further \$877 over the next four weeks - a total of \$1362.10. Preserves raised \$376.00 from the night of the Cabaret and the next two Sundays. Donations raised \$2997. So in celebrating the



10 years of Olive Way Ministry together we generously raised \$4,735.10 to support this vital work into the future.

Thank you to everyone who contributed - table hosts and guests, committees, groups and individuals who offered items, everyone who donated to and purchased from the Op Shop and especially Helen Burnham for her enthusiastic encouragement to all of us to donate and buy.

The organizers of the event - Glenice Cook, Jessica Kvanskul, Alistair Hunter, Peter Blair and myself - were overwhelmed and delighted by the response, by the joyfulness of the celebration and the generosity of all who came.

**Saide Cameron**

## A day in the village of Brunswick

I have often said that life around Brunswick can often feel like a village, not that it looks like one. The thing that make a village feel 'villagey' is that people are known to one another, you pass the same people on the streets, you can get what you need locally, and so on. There is an air of familiarity about the place. And being in a olive Way gives a unique perspective to that village life. In some ways I feel like Olive Way is at the hub, not of the whole village but a certain strata, the Olive Way strata.

This became very noticeable one day after Olive Way. I usually do a top up shop on Wednesday after we've closed, and so at the end of the day I started off up to Aldi, armed with my shopping bags. Stepping out of BUC I notice Emily across the road, I can't chat but I can wave. She gives a cheerful wave back. A few steps on and I bump into Giovanni, we walk and talk for the length of our shared path before bidding each other farewell. In Aldi, I nearly walk into Christina, I tell her I had seen her daughter that day, then turn walk up the aisle and spot Frank buying some dinner. We have a long chat (as is often the case when I haven't seen him for a while) then depart. Stepping outside Aldi I spot Tas on the street and exchange pleasantries. A few steps later while waiting at the lights to cross Glenlyon Rd, Theo crosses over Sydney Rd and greets me in his warm and friendly manner. Of course, while waiting for the lights to change, and while Theo is still chatting, Warren pulls up in the van that we had been talking about earlier in the day. He waves, and we chuckle. Theo and I then continue on before I say goodbye as I reach the church and he continues down Sydney Road. In a short space I had encountered six people!



We have a unique opportunity in Olive Way to help bring out that village life. Olive way presents us with an opportunity to become known to one another, a far cry from the alienation of the busy, bustling crowds of the city. Where we are known, there is the opportunity for love and acceptance. Opportunity, because it is not a guarantee, but a possibility that requires choice on our part. It is wonderful to see the way that BUC has continuously demonstrated that choice over the past ten years. The celebration of that continual choosing at the anniversary cabaret was an amazing affirmation of the commitment, will, determination and faithfulness of the congregation to people living in tough times.

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

## Memories of Joan

Joan was a loved member of this congregation during the years of her retirement, first at South West Brunswick and then at Sydney Road. From the moment Joan joined our community she was anxious to fully participate in the life of the congregation. She delighted in continuing to expand her already rich understanding of the Scriptures, and loved the wide variety of music that was always new and relevant. We all came to love her smile and hospitality. We appreciated her quiet wisdom and her generosity.

Speaking with some of those who knew her, they remembered her wonderful talent for creating beautiful crocheted blankets. Usually knitted from wool from the sales or unpicked jumpers bought at the op-shop. Some remembered her love of 'a bargain' and the pavlovas or other delicious foods that had to be consumed that day because they would be out of date by tomorrow. Joan's house was full of many items that had been purchased cheaply to enable her to give to those in need. Others remembered her loving hospitality hosting the weekly bible study and her understanding of the texts offered in her gracious way. All remembered her beautiful smile of welcome.

On a personal note I remember journeying with Joan for several difficult years as dementia took over her mind and body. We journeyed together through the giving up of her licence, many aged care assessments and the realisation that life was not going to be easy. Joan was constantly cheerful and we had many laughs as together we tried to work out what it was she wanted to say. She particularly loved visiting when I was minding my youngest grandchildren and used to come to lunch each Tuesday where they came to love her and look forward to her visits.

One of my disappointments for Joan was that she was not able to enjoy more time in her unit at Kingsville. Being close to where she grew up she felt it was like 'going home'. She had so anticipated moving there, in fact, she was the first person to sign up when they announced the building of the retirement village. Unfortunately it took much longer than anticipated to be completed and by that time independent living was becoming

difficult. But regardless of all her difficulties she remained the same loving Joan accepting of all and of her new way of life.

Joan had an amazing life, she gained her Leaving Certificate majoring in Maths, Physics and chemistry, she then studied nursing, midwifery and Obstetrics, social work and was later ordained as a Uniting Church minister. A woman ahead of her time. The way in which she accepted and coped with her diminishing health with such dignity and cheerfulness was an inspiration to us all.

Going through some of Joan's papers recently we came across the late Rev. Dr. Nigel Watson's address at her ordination and I found some statements highlighted. Let me share some with you:

The text was taken from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, Chapter 2 verse 4. Rev. Watson said, "It's a passage which directs us to certain qualities in the hearers and, more especially, in the bearers of the gospel which demonstrate its power, qualities which help to make it credible, qualities which go to show that the message of which the minister is the bearer, really is the word of God."

He emphasized "uprightness of character and purity of motive and self forgiving love. He also advised not a heavy-handed authoritarianism but gentleness, caring, a love that constrains you to give of your very self."

Joan's life certainly exemplified all of those qualities.

Joan lived a full life and we are all so much the richer for having shared some of it with her.

It was a privilege to have travelled with Joan during her last years.



8/9/1932-21/8/2017

Glenice Cook

## > Culture of Safety

### Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

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, you may report this in confidence so that support can be provided. You may speak to Helen

Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Culture of Safety Contact Person appointed by Church Council. Brunswick Uniting Church has a process for following up any concerns raised.

Please contact Helen in person or by telephone at 0423 009 813

## > Happy Birthday

Oscar Batch, Sheila Calwell, Zac Coverdale, Bruce Findlay, Scott Findlay, Patrick Hall, Peter Hornby, Jenny Hunter, Dave Kruse, Amanda Lees, Hamish Macrae, Julie McKinnon, Archie Moore, Jill Moorhouse, Joshua Mullen, Stephen Mullen, Gwen Rogers, Cathryn Goode, Nathan Watson Kruse



## News from Steph

Broome Uniting is mourning the death of Rev Chris Paine. He died on Tuesday (26/8) in Perth Hospital.

Amongst all of that, I am preparing for the Wedding of a local couple Paul and Kristy to take place on Saturday (2/9). Rev Jo Mar from Mowanjum Uniting will officiate and I will lead some parts of the ceremony.

Rev Jo will guest preach at Broome Congregation on Sunday (3/9) and he and I will fly to Darwin in the afternoon and be driven to the Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia Minister's Retreat where we get to hang out with Rev Prof Andrew Dutney, Principal of Uniting College for Leadership and Theology, Adelaide College of Divinity. There will be time for listening and engaging with Andrew, worship, personal retreat time, cooking together, eating, drinking, walking and canoeing!

I'm hoping I'll also find some time for study as I've enrolled in my first subject at Pilgrim College, an online unit called Earliest Christianity. I'm enjoying thinking about books as a dangerous new technology that corrupted the minds of young scribes, stunting their attention spans, as they could now flick back and forth through a text, rather than having to read an entire scroll! ...Perhaps I have an overactive imagination.

It's strange to think I only have a month to go of my life here in 'the North'. I'm sure I'll catch a few sunsets and might even



A sketch of worship, by a congregation member who was passing through town

make it to a night at the Speedway before I fly home to Melbourne via Darwin late in September. I'll be handing over to a retired minister and his wife who are coming to Broome for a month and a half. It's likely that a memorial for Rev Chris Paine will be held in October.

When I return to Melbourne I'll be looking for a house to lease with Matt and in November I begin a fulltime role with Coburg Uniting Church as Mission Project Worker. This is a role working alongside the Minister in placement. At the moment that placement is vacant but the process of calling a new Minister to the congregation has begun.

I have a limited understanding of what the life of Coburg Uniting Church looks like. I met Rev Robert Humphries and Rose Broadstock from Port Philip West Presbytery for lunch and a conversation about the role before I left for Broome. I'm not feeling ready to jump straight into a new context when I return so I'm imagining October and early November will be an important time for me of rest, reconnection and reflection.

Thanks for your prayers and messages.

Steph Gesling



## > Special Events

### A September & October Summary

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

- World Week for Peace Afternoon Tea, **16th September**
- Glitter Balls & Big Hair, Alistair's Musical Bingo, **16th September**, see page 7
- FUNdraising Stall, **17th September**, see page 7
- Open Studio, **17th September**, see page 13
- The Stones Cry Out, **21st September**, see page 9
- Griefs Observed, **12th & 19th October**, see page 9
- Open Studio, **15th October**, see page 13
- What is Creativity Exhibition, **27th October to 2nd November**, see page 12

## > Communication News

Have you looked at our [website](#) recently? The [Calendar](#) and [Blog sections](#) on the [Home page](#) have been redesigned allowing for greater visibility for coming events and increased space to highlight the stories we are telling and sharing across four categories - Sermons, Sunday Prayers, Ministry Team and Our Stories.

One of the plans we had for the website was to provide a way for more people to be involved in telling and sharing stories through Blogs.

The blogs will appear on individual group or committee pages and will also feed through the Our Stories blog on the Home page.

Send me an email if you want to find out about blogging or creating events for your committee or group on the website.

And so far only 43 people have requested access to the [members area](#). We look forward to many more requests ...

The [Olive Press](#) has been revamped with the main content available from the Home Page on the website and a summary sent out by email. You can access the full website version from the email by clicking on the [BUC News](#) heading. All other links take you to specific events or other items.

Saide Cameron

## > Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

### Children & Families Interim Worker

Hi all, for any of those who don't know, my name is Caitlin Mullen-Beagley. As of the fourteenth of August I became the Children and Families Interim Worker.

I have been worshipping at Brunswick Uniting (and South-West Brunswick before that) for pretty much my entire life. I have lived in the Student House, was on the CY&YA Committee for 3 years, and was a youth group leader for two, and am usually pretty involved in the Christmas pageant.

One of my passions is working with children - it's what I hope to do with the social work degree I'm currently working on!

Please come and have a chat if you have any ideas/thoughts/questions about the children's program or if you'd like to know anything else.



### Student House Faith Spot

This month, **Brianna Bartley** shares with us the joy of working with young people as a YUCY (youth group) leader. Brianna has been a part of the Student House Community since 2014 and has been a part of youth group for most of that time.

Working with youth of Uniting Church is a great experience. I love that these younger people can connect with other teens their age in a safe and empowering environment. The teenagers are enabled to share their thoughts in a safe space, and engage with friends outside of school communities. These teenagers are growing into adults and is very exciting to witness. In YUCY we make it a safe space for their voices to be heard. Most of all I think I love listening to how they are understanding the world.

### Student and Youth Update

A fair amount has been going on in the world of young people at BUC over the last month or so! The student house community has been settling back into semester 2. They've also been doing a wonderful job of building relationships and community within the houses and more broadly. Our most recent student house dinner was lovely and casual. We explored the emotional hospitality of Jesus feeding the 5000, while being blessed by the Hunter's home cooking! A comparable level of hospitality I'd dare say!

The YUCY crew have been having a great time as ever at our fortnightly Friday night catch ups! Lots of new faces and quite a mix of peeps each hang makes for an interesting and unique experience every time - well, for me and the leaders anyway haha. The remaining YUCY nights for term 3 are September 8 and 22.

**Anika Jensen**

### Inclusion in Faith

Finally, in mid-August Catherine Drimmel and myself attended a Victorian Government-led forum on LGBTI Inclusion in Faith Communities. It was a very productive conversation from several faith perspectives on how best to live our faith as whole communities, including our gender and sexuality diverse folk.

Please find the forum's official [Statement of Support](#) on our website!

## > Discipleship & Education News

### Spiritual Survival Guide **Series 3**

**The D&E committee invites you to this diverse and fabulous [series](#).  
Join us at 7:30pm at the church. Bring a plate of supper to share.**

1. **The Stones Cry Out:**

[The story of Palestinian Christians](#)

**Thursday 21st September, 7:30pm**

A powerful film of life in the Holy Land. We co-host this screening with the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network. Details also available [here](#)

2. **Griefs Observed:**

Living with and living through Loss

**Thursday 12th October**

[Revisiting Grief](#) with Meg Moorhouse

**& Thursday 19th October**

[Grief & Loss - the Hidden Experience](#)

with Ann Soo & Jenne Perlstein

3. **The Basis of Union:**

[What is it? Why should we care?](#)

**Thursday 16th November**

with Geoff Thompsen

Geoff's book '[Disturbing Much, Disturbing Many: Theology Provoked by the Basis of Union](#)' was launched at Synod last year.

## > Pastoral Care News

### Ian's Long Service Leave

Beth and I will be travelling overseas for 5 weeks from **4th September** on a mutual Long Service Leave break. We will be travelling to Berlin, Krakow, Scotland and Ireland. In my absence you will be in the capable hands of a series of guest preachers and Pastoral Care minister Trish Graham. I look forward to sharing lots of photos and stories when I return. I will be back at work on **10th October**.

Ian Ferguson

### Introducing Trish ...

My name is Trish Graham and I have been invited to sojourn with you through the weeks of Ian's Long Service Leave to participate in the offering of Pastoral Care within the community. During these past few weeks, I have been sharing in worship and attending some meetings to become familiar with people and processes here. I have experienced the vibrancy, the warmth and the welcome of this community and express my gratitude here for this opportunity to spend time here amongst you.

My movement towards Theology and Pastoral Care came at the end of a 40 year career in Nursing through which I practiced in many fields but ultimately settling for 10 years in Palliative care. The call into Theology study seemed natural and I completed a Graduate Diploma and focussed on Clinical Pastoral Education. After completing units at the Austin and at Peter MacCallum including an Advanced Level, I joined the Pastoral Care Team at Epworth Richmond and worked there for almost 6 years in non denominational Pastoral Ministry which I loved.

### Pastoral Care - all ministries

Members of all the teams that support our Pastoral Care ministry - Hospitality, Compassion, Community - joined the committee for dinner at the Manse on 23rd August. Ian invited us to reflect on the story of Moses and share stories with each other about something adventurous that we had done.

Helen joined us to speak about our Culture of Safety and in particular Working with Children Checks, Codes of Conduct and Synod policies. We also discussed our ministry to vulnerable adults in the Olive Way and in our congregation generally.

We returned to a time of shared story telling again, this time with a focus on pastoral care. The themes that emerged from this included: the unexpected, the challenges, the stories, the offering of care from different places, the culture and challenge of the hospitality that we offer.

Reflecting on the way in which our Pastoral Care ministry is shaped we felt that the model is 'bedding down' now in a way that is helpful to our congregation. If you want to know more about this model you can read the report here or speak to a committee member - Ian Ferguson, Glenice Cook, Jane Allardice

Settling into retirement has not been my lot and I found myself exploring EcoMinistry with Rev Andy Calder and Dr Jan Morgan through a pilot CPE unit at the Centre for Theology and Ministry in 2015. This has become a passion and I am currently working towards qualifying in Supervision in Clinical Pastoral Education.



I am 44 years married and with David have 3 sons and 5 (almost 6) grandchildren. The things that nurture my spirit (besides my beautiful family) are intentional walking in nature, birdwatching, Interplay, Storytelling (more recently), gardening and cooking.

I am looking forward to meeting with you all individually and collectively over the coming weeks as we come together in the Christ Spirit of compassion, hospitality and community.

Trish

### Community



The community team hosted lunch after worship on **27th August**. Three delicious soups - Potato, Leek & Cheese, Mexican Cabbage, Zucchini Orrechietti - kept us warm while we chatted and enjoyed each other's company.

Next term we will be organizing Triple Letter Dinners to be held over the weekend of **10th, 11th, 12th November**. Save the dates and be ready to offer to be a guest or host. More details next month.

### Compassion

Our thoughts and prayers are with Hannah & Patrick Denison following the death of their grandfather and also with Joan Gilcrist's family.

Saide Cameron

### From the committee

Our big agenda item for our August meeting was the **Olive Way ministry**. We welcomed Richard Arnold to respond to and discuss his recently submitted report. We are deeply grateful to Richard for his support of Peter Blair as he continues to settle into and shape his ministry as our Olive Way Co-ordinator. Richard has overseen the 3-month review and is working with both Peters to ensure that position descriptions are fully representative of their roles. The JAM committee has committed to completing an internal 3-year review of the Olive Way ministry by July 2018 with recommendations to be made to Council by September 2018.

The main focus of our discussions was the need to **build the volunteer base for the Olive Way** and to ensure that there are sufficient volunteers to open the doors each day. We are very pleased that Church Council has accepted the following recommendation *That Peter Blair be employed for an additional day per week from September to December 2017 in order to develop depth in our volunteer base. Notes: These additional hours are necessary to ensure the successful future of the Olive Way program and is respectful to all involved. The fortnightly*

The work of committees and activities that we support continues to enrich the life of our congregation in myriad ways, more details about many of these items can be found on following pages:

- The **Olive Way Potluck Cabaret on 29th July** was a wonderful celebration and a very successful FUNdraising event, see pages 3-6.
- **Food Co-op** has surveyed its members and has resolved to employ someone to receive deliveries.
- The new **composting system** appears to be working well (thanks to Abi Benham-Bannon, Julie Perrin Helen Rowe and Tim Budge)
- **BUK Arts** continues to support and shape the creative lives of many people with Olive Arts, the Knit In, Open Studios, Felting for Peace and the 'What is Creativity' Exhibition in October-November.
- Andi Jones has commenced her role as the new **Project Manager** with the **Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre**. Ray & Saide Cameron have met with Andi to discuss our FUNdraising commitment and to establish clear lines of communication for requesting support and reporting on projects and submitting requests for property maintenance.

### Food Co-op

#### Temporary job vacancy with the Food Co-op

Food Co-op is experiencing some changes just now. Our long-serving purchasing officer is retiring so we have a vacancy for this role. We are seeking to fill the vacancy with a paid position of approximately 5 hours a month for 6 months initially.

*meetings with Richard and Peter will provide support and accountability for the task.*

Richard presented a very exciting proposal to nominate Vince & Rosa for an award (we're not sure which one yet) for their role in supporting vulnerable people by providing accommodation and support 'above & beyond' what is normally offered at **Stewart Lodge**. We hope that if successful the award could be used to raise awareness about the issues of housing and homelessness.

A small group gathered to watch and discuss the very thought provoking movie **'Bag It'** after Food Co-op on 12th August. Plastic is woven through all aspects of our living and the film clearly demonstrated the destructive impact of plastic on our lives, our environment and our health. Speak to Meredith Budge if you want to borrow the DVD, it's sobering entertainment and very watchable.



We also discussed the raised garden beds and the need to ensure that all OHS issues are addressed. The ASWC staff have agreed to maintain the gardens and to support clients to work in them safely. The beds will be incorporated into the design for the whole green space.

- The larger scale **Community Garden project** tipped for the front south-west corner of our site (on Sydney Rd.) is currently on hold.
- We encourage you to attend the **afternoon tea on 16th September** to listen to stories from Rev. Joan Fisher about her experience with EAPPI.
- **Glitter Balls & Big Hair - Alistair's Musical Bingo**, also on **16th September** will be lots of fun and a great way to kick off our role as Foundation Sponsor of the PIEN 2018 Speaking Tour.

Speak to any of us (Saide Cameron, Kirsty Bennett, Meredith Budge, Abi Benham-Bannon, Gwen Arnold, Leanne Salau) about the vibrant work of the JAM committee. Each of us is involved in one or more of the committees we support. We are always open to new members and we always share a meal when we meet.

**Saide Cameron**

## Knit In

### A follow up to the World Wide Knit in Public Day



High energy, colour, chatter and community filled the Olive Way again on **5th August** when thirty knitters and stitchers reunited as a follow up to World Wide Knit in Public Day. What a joy to witness the

effort and commitment of all our knitters who have been knitting conscientiously since our WWKIP day. Squares of vibrant colour were spread out and gradually stitched into blocks and strips to form a blanket. It was interesting to co-ordinate colours, find accurate matches in size, and determine the best stitch for keeping the work flat. Not an easy task to do in a group of thirty but somehow, we did it! In three hours, at least one blanket of thirty- five squares was completed and many more taken home to be finished.

For me, there were many highlights. I am constantly delighted by BUC throwing the doors open - welcoming others, creating a warm, caring and inclusive space.



Thank you to our congregation members for contributing with their presence, open hearts



and busy hands. In addition, the blankets are a witness to the work by so many. Some donated bags of yarn and squares anonymously. Each square is witness to the time and good will of each knitter and placed together, we send out care to the recipient of the blanket. When, all done, there will be at least six blankets and we are hoping to display these for you to see before we send them off to KOGO (Knit One Give One) a non profit organisation based in Caulfield who will distribute them thoughtfully to those who need the warmth.

I am also thrilled to have been in conversation with Heather from Queenscliff Uniting Church who supports a vibrant knitting community that culminates in their annual hand knitted teacosy exhibition that has been running for the last seven years! Inspiring!! More about that in the next Olive Branch. Now, back to the knitting ...



Ann Soo and Glenice Cook

## Creative Arts Exhibition at BUC

### What is Creativity?

[Contributors](#) are invited to submit a new creative work responding to the question: "What does creativity mean to you?" What processes help you engage creatively with life? What would you like to share with your community that might inspire the creativity of others?

You are encouraged to submit a work that allows viewers to interact with it, encouraging a conversation between the artist, art and viewer. Some suggestions for interactive artworks may be:

- a work that allows viewers to participate or contribute in some way
- inviting viewers to write or draw a response to your artwork
- inviting viewers to add to your work or to take their photo with it
- a work that provides an immersive experience for viewers (this may include music, film or performance art)

Creative works may be in any form, including visual arts, performance arts, writing (and other forms of creative expression). Please note that opportunities for live performances will be offered during the two evening events on 27 October and 2 November detailed below.

The exhibition will run from **Friday 27 October until Tuesday 7 November** at Brunswick Uniting Church. Opening night will be

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on **Friday 27 October** from 6:30pm so please mark your diaries now and join the celebration. The exhibition will also include an evening event on **Thursday 2 November** from 6:30-9:30pm.

Submissions accepted: **Saturday 21 October** (10am-12pm) and **Sunday 22 October** (11am-1pm)

Submissions collected: **Saturday 11 November** (10am-12pm) and **Sunday 12 November** (11am-1pm)

Please provide a short artist statement of up to 50 words with your [submission](#) which will accompany your artwork.

While all submissions are encouraged, display will be at the discretion of the Brunswick Uniting Church Arts Committee.

Please address enquiries and submission form requests to [bucarts@gmail.com](mailto:bucarts@gmail.com)

See next page for details about our Open Studios.

## Open Studios



Come along and join in the process of making art after worship on **17th September, 15th October**, 10:45-11:30am in the West End of the Hall. This time can be used purely for your own pleasure or as preparation for the ['What is Creativity'](#) Exhibition, 27th October - 7th November. Participants had a very enjoyable time for the first Open Studio on **20th August**.

Some materials will be supplied. You are also welcome to bring your own materials.

Please contact Ann Soo, 0422 842 244 or Simone Alesich, 0403 782 404 if you have any questions about Open Studios and/or the exhibition.



## Olive Arts

A huge shout out to Phil Kreveld and Geoff Falk for sharing their creativity and joy with us over the last 12 weeks of The Olive Arts. Taking us all by the hand and walking us through a range of mediums from charcoal to watercolour, it all became accessible due to their skilful ease and innate sense of humour. All eyes were glued to the demonstrations and we were inspired to create new art and be adventurous in the process. Who ever thought to mix turps and water colour or to wash watercolour over candle wax to create effects? Watercolour is the most challenging of mediums, fluid and difficult to control yet Phil made it fun and freeing with some beautiful results. Thanks to all our participants who took the opportunity to go out of their comfort zone, to experiment and take risks with their work. We have such an open and inclusive community at The Olive Arts where people become friends and are safe to create; working towards an atmosphere where art can emerge.

Thank you to all those who have donated to The Olive Arts and to BUC ARTS as we now have our own media and good quality materials that makes a huge difference to each and everyone of us.



The Olive Arts is currently in recess and Arts Access Victoria and Artstop have returned for the next 10 weeks. Over the summer, The Olive Arts will return mid November and run on Wednesdays accordingly with The Olive Way calendar.

Please do not hesitate to call if you are interested to join or volunteer in this amazing space.

Thank you.

**Ann Soo**



## Felting for Peace

A group of ten gathered to create a peace felt after worship on **27th August** for the International Day of Peace (21st September).

Our peace felt will be exchanged with our peace felt partner somewhere in the world. What a beautiful symbol of unity in the commitment to living more peacefully in our world.

Therefore, we decided to create individual pieces drawing upon what peace means to our church. Each person was guided by their understanding and 'felt' sense in making their piece. It was a delight to witness the vibrant wool rovings being laid out in interesting forms and the mindfulness that comes from this art form. The wet felting process using



warm soapy water and then, agitation of the fibres by rolling and throwing brings forth some fascinating results. The fibres are transformed and merged to create felt of strength, texture substance and vibrant colour.

Please see below for the results and for Saide's choice of the exchange Felt.

**Ann Soo**

I was given the honour of selecting our exchange felt. Each felt was beautiful and evocative of peace. I was drawn to the 'winning' felt by the combination of colours. The blue and white reminded me of the International Day of Peace 'blue on white' dove. The purple spoke to me of the seasons of Lent and Advent in which we tell and engage with the central stories of our faith and in particular our longing for peace and justice for all.

**Saide Cameron**



## FUNdraising News

The intention of the FUNdraising team is always to ensure that FUNdraising is FUN. For the **Share Winter Appeal** we held a stall after worship and also 'shared' three items - Courtney's bicycle (purchased by Graeme and being used with enjoyment on our BUC cycle outings), a Surf Coast Art Trail and a 6 Course International Meal. These generous offerings resulted in our congregation raising almost \$1,600 for the Appeal. Here's a couple of stories to share ...

### Surf Coast Art Trail

Thanks to the very warm and generous hospitality of Jamie Thom and Linda Wannan - Helen Burnham, Jamie, Linda and I headed off for a wonderful weekend (**12th-13th August**) at Aireys Inlet.

We saw some inspirational and fantastic paintings, sculpture and other art around Bellbrae, Fairhaven and Aireys Inlet.



No doubt though, that the highlight of the weekend was spending time together at their relaxed Retro beach house taking in the wonderful ocean sea air with bracing walks along the cliff face.

We also had the privilege of sharing worship at the Aireys Inlet Uniting Church with a warm and welcoming congregation.

All this with shared meals, lots of laughs and conversation and a very patient Jamie doing the driving at everyone's beck and call.

Great way of raising funds for BUC.



**Claire Foley**

'Doin' the Eagle Rock'



## 6 Course International Meal

Ray & I enjoyed a delightful afternoon cooking and preparing for our guests on **26th August**. A couple of our recipes came from the ASWC 'Share my Plate' recipe book which was published quite a few years ago - simple and very tasty. We welcomed Liz Palazzi, Jacky Magessa, Ken Morrison, David Rees, Claire & Michael Foley. The food was delicious (of course), the company excellent, the mystery wine tasting was both fun and educational. All together a very pleasant way to spend an evening. We've enjoyed offering the meal twice now and will probably do so again at some point in time next year. Watch out for the offer.



Saide Cameron

## Glitter Balls & Big Hair

### What's it all about?

Our next big event is another fabulous way of gathering as community to FUNdraise and support an important 'cause'.

### So who/what are we supporting?

Our congregation is a foundation sponsor of the [Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network](#) 2018 Speaking Tour. The focus of this speaking tour of a prominent Palestinian Christian 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, and to seek a genuine, sustainable peace between Palestine and Israel. Our church has the chance to be a leader in changing public attitudes on this situation.

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.

### What happens on the night?

We play musical bingo and we dance. During the evening we will bid at auction four very special items drawn from the talents and resources of our own congregation, buy tickets for a mystery raffle prize and enjoy the wholesome goodness of the preserves and baked goods stall.

### How do I book a seat for an unforgettable night of bingo & dancing fun?

- Book your own table of 8 or register to join a gathered table.
- Email [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com) or sign up at worship.
- Jessica will be ready to take your bookings during morning tea after worship over the next two Sundays.

### What do we bring?

- \$15 to pay at the door
- Your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues
- A table cloth for your table
- Money (of course)
- Nibbles and drinks
- (Tea & coffee will be available)

### What else do I need to know?

- You are encouraged to dress up 'disco style'.
- We welcome offers to donate or buy the prizes being offered after each round (6 or 8 in total). Call Saide, 0407 096 743, for details about what we are looking for.



## A conversation with Joan Fisher

**Saturday 16th September. 2:00-4:00pm**

The Justice & Mission committee is delighted to host [a conversation with Joan](#), a former EAPPI volunteer, to mark the beginning of the World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel.

Join us for afternoon tea as we learn more about the [Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel](#). Bring a plate to share.

26 Frederick St. Brunswick. Contact Saide, 0407 096 743 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 24th September**.

### 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 dates: **3rd September**, hosted by Tim & Meredith Budge, 7 Curtain St. North Carlton.

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

### Mulling

Our next gathering will be **Tuesday 5th September** from 7:00pm For details, contact Michael Rigby, 0402 905 235.

### 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

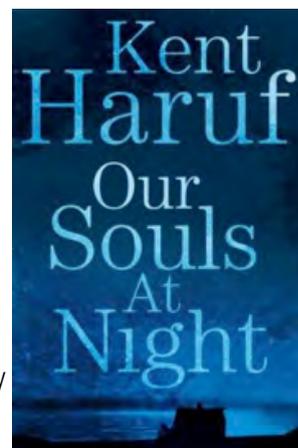
facilitated by Jeanette Acland

7.30 – 9 pm, **Wednesday 25 October 2017**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

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

In October we will be discussing *Our souls at night* by Kent Haruf, a posthumously published, beautifully told tale of how a small-town widow cautiously finds happiness.



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 16 September** from 10 am - 12 noon.

New members welcome! We buy in bulk and you bring your re-usable containers to fill with the quantity you want. Over 60 food and cleaning products available. We aim to reduce our ecological footprint on the Earth by distributing food and cleaning products free of additional packaging. Meet in the Olive Way space.

Further information from Helen Rowe 0423 009 813 or Meredith Budge 0403 717 714

## Church Council

### Game of Thrones Committees

Herein lie the annals of the great houses of Brunswick Uniting Church

#### House Church Council

*House Motto: 'I came here for the food.'*

*The ruling house of BUC, House Church Council dispenses justice from the Plastic-Free Throne.*



This month Church Council has begun the process of crafting a strategic plan for the next five years. The Mission Planning Process was an integral and valuable time of discernment but we recognise that it is also important to have these formal strategic documents. The initial concept draft has identified six key themes: 'Mission Shaped Church', 'Deepening Relationships', 'Growth', 'Deepening Faith and Spirituality', 'Intentionality', and 'Celebration'. An important focus of this review will be establishing stronger governance policies for how our committees and programs function, including developing long term goals and undertaking regular five-year reviews. You will hear more about this as the process continues.

#### House Olive Way

*House Motto: 'The toasties are coming.'*

*House Olive Way keeps its ancient watch against the night, welcoming all in need.*



The Olive Way program has recently been struggling with a short supply of volunteers. In order to begin to remedy this, Church Council has agreed to extend Coordinator Pete Blair's contract to an additional day per week until December, to give him an opportunity to seek new volunteers and relieve the pressure on his general duties. Please get in touch with Peter if you are interested in helping out in this great program.

#### House Food Co-op

*House Motto: 'You bring the Tupperware, we'll bring the fun.'*

*A noble House, House Food Co-op unites valiant knights throughout the Seven Kingdoms in the battle against waste and consumerism.*



The food co-op has also been grappling with organisational challenges. To remedy this, they will employ a purchasing officer, funded by a very modest increase in membership fees and operating margins.

#### House Property

*House Motto: 'We're getting to it as fast we can.'*

*The ancient House Property mans the Walls and keeps the forces of decay at bay.*



The Property Committee has developed an explicit process for managing property and maintenance requests from the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre. They are also looking into replacing/rehabilitating the cracked and broken pots that currently line the walkway from the lawn to the Olive Way.

#### House Safe Church

*House Motto: 'May the credentials never lapse.'*

*The peacekeepers of the Realm, House Safe Church is vigilant against danger and keeps watch to ensure that members may travel safely throughout the Seven Kingdoms.*



Council is continuing to receive advice from Helen Rowe on updating our Safe Church policies to meet Synod and legal requirements. We are also mindful of the importance of ensuring that all leaders and volunteers have current Working with Children checks. We are putting in place a new process to ensure that program and committee coordinators have the information to follow up with those whose credentials are not up to date.

#### House Finance

*House Motto: 'The spreadsheets are ours.'*

*Administrators of the realm's finances, House Finance monitors revenues and ensures that our obligations to the Iron Bank are met.*



The figures collected by the Finance Committee show that the congregation has responded to our Mission Appeal, and that offerings have significantly risen. If you are still interested in other ways to make an offering, such as through direct debit, please speak to a member of the Finance Committee or Church Council.

We have also clarified the Public Liability Insurance policy of the Congregation. External groups will need to purchase this insurance, though in some cases in which activities are particularly low risk/trustworthy, this requirement may be waived. Speak to Linda Wannan/Mal Rowe for more details.

**Daniel Broadstock**, Keeper of the Annals

## Worship Committee

To begin our meeting Natalie invited us to read Psalm 113 responsively and to reflect on the divisions in our world and the unity that can still be found.

We welcomed Amelia Ware to our committee - yay! There is always room for more members. Let one of us know if you are interested in joining this truly excellent committee (Natalie Sims, Helen Burnham, Saide Cameron, Ian Ferguson, Kirsty Bennett, Peter Middleton and now also Amelia).

After reflecting on worship for the Sundays since our July meeting we discussed a range of other topics:

- providing photo guidelines for managing the **Sound System**
- shaping a **reflective service on 29th October** around the BUC Arts 'What is Creativity' Exhibition
- **Exploring our names & images for God** during worship on 3rd September in response to Moses and the Burning Bush
- **Pageant preparations** - Ian, Caitlin and Saide enjoyed a brainstorming session after worship on 10th August. We came up with a concept from which Caitlin has already prepared a draft script. We're excited. Watch out for invitations to get involved.

- **Sharing of the set up tasks** supported by photo guidelines is working well. Thank you to everyone who has so willingly taken on the extra tasks associated with roster responsibilities.
- [Roster guidelines](#) have been fully updated and are available in the Members section on our website. they are very helpful if you are new to the roster system and worth looking at as a refresher if you've been on the roster for more years than you can remember!
- All **song writers** have given permission for their music (both new and from Tune In) to be available for free download on our website. We would love to hear from someone who has time to comprehensively edit all the new material. Contact Natalie if this is you, 0457 054 807 or [nsims@svi.edu.au](mailto:nsims@svi.edu.au).
- We've started planning for worship services on Christmas Eve/Advent 4 - yes on the same day!! More details next month.
- We are looking forward to our **calendar of local and visiting preachers** during Ian's long service leave. Ian is sad to be missing hearing them - such is the paradox of LSL.

### 30/7 Pentecost 8 Matthew 13:31-32, 33, 44-46; Romans 8:31-39



On the 5th Sunday in July our morning service was reflective in shape and style. Worship began in the Gathering Space as we enjoyed listening to Peter Blair's classical guitar playing moving through to the worship space and then the table where we shared Holy Communion. In each space we heard a parable, prayed and reflected. In the Gathering Space we heard the parable of the seed. Holding a bowl of seeds Ian commented '*Jesus reminds us that, like the tiniest of seeds, what seems to be inadequate will be enough. With the love and blessing of God, we can become faithful, fruitful trees, whatever our capacities – fruitful trees in a faithful community of trees, a forest of shade and shelter. And this is how the kingdom comes.*' We took a shiny stone and carried it with us to the pews.



In the pews we heard the parables of the hidden treasure and the fine pearls. Inviting us to hold our shiny stones, a reminder of the hidden treasure of God's reign Ian asked '*Where then is the treasure for which you would give your all to be found? What do you know of the pearl of great price and treasure of heaven? Where does it lie in your life, in our world? Hold this stone and reflect in this way as we make our offering, a symbol of our self-giving for the sake of God's reign of love.*

And finally we listened to the parable of yeast. Preparing for Holy Communion Ian invited us to take a leap of faith and imagination and so connect the bread that we would share with the bread the woman made in the parable saying '*As we share this meal, may that love bubble up and through us, renewing us from the inside out, leavening and transforming the world.*'



Later in the day we shared worship with the Brunswick Indonesian UC congregation sharing the readings from the Bible in our two languages. Ian used the same symbols from the morning service to speak with the children about seeds and treasures and the Kingdom of God.



In the wake of a week or two of dual citizenship revelations in parliament Ian focussed on the question of citizenship in his sermon. He revealed that he is in fact an Australian, New Zealand and British citizen. Having googled further and discovered that you can't hold



dual citizenship with Indonesia and any other country he commented that this is true *'unless of course you are a Christian'*. Ian then went on to explore questions of allegiance in response to this.

He did this by exploring the *two groups of parables with two different themes offered in Matthew's gospel*. Focusing on the second group he commented that *Matthew's gospel emphasizes this theme of judgement and separation more so than the other gospels and I have to say I don't like it'*. Ian then offered us another take reminding us that we are not the *'farmer or the fisherman. We are not the judge*. He explored the qualities of the kingdom of God, of our king and judge and affirmed *'... as a citizen of his kingdom I want to stand against all earthly attempts to separate, divide and judge. I will resist all laws and human behaviours that contravene the borderless embrace of the kingdom of God or at least I'll try to. It's hard, it's hard to be a citizen of the kingdom of God. God give us strength; grant us your Spirit, your Spirit to help us to be faithful*. He concluded with a call to prayer from the Holy Land.



**6/8 Pentecost 9 Genesis 32:22-31, Matthew 14:13-21** Ian and Simone invited the children to come forward so that we could listen to the Bible readings all together. He helped us to recall what the Bible means (library), the number of books (66) written long ago and far away and *no wonder they are a little bit strange*. Ian invited us to enter into the strangeness. Simone spoke about being in Indonesia and her experience of attempting to read the Bible from start to finish. She invited us to listen to the stories and to try and hear something new and then afterwards to write, draw or make something in response. She commented that art gives us a way to access a different way of listening to the stories.



Ian invited Janet Reus-Smit and Janet Watson Kruse to help us engage with the stories taking the voices of Jacob and Jesus respectively. Jacob spoke of being afraid for his life and Jesus of his pain and uncertainty. And in response Ian asked *'What is God's call on your life today? What is your place?'* Both spoke of their struggle of faith. Jacob of wrestling with God and seeking a new blessing and Jesus in his need to alone with his grief and fear and yet wanting to respond to the crowds with compassion. Ian asked us *'What are your struggles to be faithful?'* Then we heard of the results of their struggles. Jacob received a new name and a new life and a renewed trust in God, *'not to make life easy but to be with him through everything.'* Jesus spoke of his ongoing grief and the realisation that *God's powerful compassionate love works even through his vulnerability and uncertainty*. Ian concluded asking *'What blessing, what new future is God working out through you, through us? What hunger is being fed in you, through us?'*



Later we gathered round the table to be fed in our celebration of Holy Communion.



**13/8 Pentecost 10 Matthew 14:22-33, Romans 10:5-15** Ian and Anika spoke with the children about walking on water. Ian commented that the storm reminds us of the hard and stormy places in life and Jesus reaches out a hand to say *'you can do it with me'*. The children all stood on the water as we sang Jesus' words *'Don't be afraid'*.



Responding to Matthew's gospel story of Jesus walking on water Ian titled his reflection *'How to walk on water in three easy lessons'* and invited us to get into the mood by listening to some Keith Jarrett. He spoke to us about the nature of the water Jesus was walking on and responses shared to the question *'What is the ocean?'* at a seminar he had attended. He then invited us to hear the story of Jesus walking on the sea from a personal poetic perspective.

His lessons for walking on water were simple: *Lesson 1 – see the sea and freak out. Lesson 2 – you're not God, what you think you can walk on water, are you crazy? Lesson 3 – Do it anyway because Jesus Christ is there on the deep, calling you to get out of the boat, you are not alone in the chaos. We can go there because he goes there before us.*

Having offered us these lessons he told us about listening to a podcast called *'Embrace the chaos;'* and the beautiful story told within it of Keith Jarrett playing a battered unsuitable baby grand piano at a concert. Ian commented *'The point of the podcast is that human chaos can give rise to human creativity. And the point of the gospel is that cosmic chaos is the place of God's loving saving creative power.'*

Repeating the lessons again Ian concluded: *So how to walk on water – see the sea. It is the chaotic deep from which God loves creation into being. Remember you are not God but God meets you in Christ in the midst of the chaos. Hear his call and do it anyway. Step out in faith. He will take your hand and lift you up from the waves. He will lead you into the new life that rises from the deep. Amen*



**20/8 Pentecost 11 Genesis 37:1-11, Genesis 45:1-15, Matthew 15:10-28** Ian invited the children to come and listen to Joseph's story as extracts from Genesis 37-45. Using a rainbow cloth to symbolise the good times in the story and hessian



to represent the not so good times for Joseph and the land we responded as the story was read. And at the end of the story Ian reminded us that God had been with Joseph through all the ups and downs just as God is with us and our world through all the ups and downs that we experience.

Beginning his sermon Ian commented *'Friends we've just heard a pretty ugly gospel reading'* saying that this was appropriate given the ugliness in the air, *'a bit of a stench around issues of religion and race and the particularly ugly debate about marriage equality'*. He said he wanted to focus in on the ugliness of the gospel passage *'to find the yes hidden in its no'*.

Ian invited us to consider our responses to the questions *'What really matters right now? What is important? What are you most concerned about?'* together with the relevance of our issues now and to Jesus then. He spoke of religious purity in Jesus' time, the demonstrations on the streets of America and in our own parliament, of *'Religion used to separate, to divide, to declare impure, unclean, defiled. And this is what Jesus is raging against.'* And finally he explored Jesus' response to the Canaanite woman asking *'Is he a raging hypocrite like the Pharisees who are only human after all? Or is this some convoluted lesson?'* He reminded us of the audience who was listening to this story and Jesus stunning and powerful YES to the woman.

He concluded *'But here are Jesus and the Canaanite woman to inspire us. She is the midwife for the birth of a borderless Christianity. He is the devout Jew who embraces her. Woman great is your faith. Thank you for helping Jesus reshape the inclusiveness of our faith until it is open to all people regardless of race or any other human characteristic we might use to exclude. Thank you that out of the ugliness of human conflict comes the freedom to be children of God together. Thank you. Amen.'*



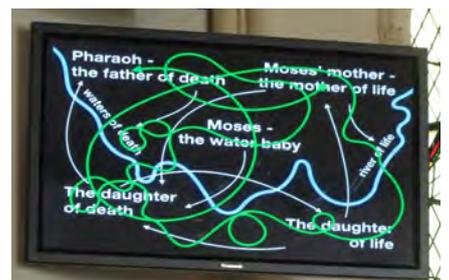
**27/8 Pentecost 12 Exodus 1:8-2:10, Romans 12:1-8** Having listened to the story of Moses in his basket on the river Ian and Daniel invited the children to make a river. Daniel and Ian retold the story and then they invited the children to place their prayers in the river just like Moses's mother placed Moses' in his basket on the river hoping and praying that he would live.

Ian's sermon began *'A little child is bobbing in a basket in a great river. He's on his way to save his people. ...'* And so he invited us to explore the similarities between Moses and Jesus' story, of the symbolism of the river, of the seasons of life for Egypt, of the living death being experienced by the Hebrew people, of the harsh irony, ie *'the river of life flows with the waters of death'*. He said *'This story of Moses birth is layered with such irony.'* and shared a fabulously intricate diagram to represent all the death and life tangled up in it.

He asked *'Friends what do you know of this divine flow? The river of salvation flowing through the powerful heights sweeping away the corruption and violence of those who use power to oppress and to gather up the lowly and carry them to freedom.'* Ian spoke of the living death being experienced by the men on Manus Island and of the Love Makes a Way civil disobedience action the previous Tuesday. The inside team held a prayer vigil inside the office of Federal Minister Greg Hunt until they were removed by police and the outside team prayed echoing the pose of the men on Manus Island – *Echoing their pose saying Christ's people in Australia have not forgotten you and we will immerse ourselves as much as we are able in the saving river of life and love that flows for justice and freedom.*

He concluded *'Friends like Moses we have all been immersed in that river. Baptism is a living sign of inundation, emergence and harvest. The act that unites us with the unstoppable flow of God's saving life.'* And finally he played the song 'Baptism' by Dr. Yunupingu as we watched this [footage](#) of a river in Venezuela representing the flow of freedom from the heights to the depths.

Listen to the sermons again or catch up if you've missed out. It's really worth the sixteen minutes or so!! They are all available on our website posted and available each week on the [Home Page](#) blog and archived on the [Sermons & Stories page](#).



## Finance Committee

**Ethical Investments.** *Have you an interest in justice and mission? Like to learn about ethical investments? It's more than just "not buying shares" in certain manufacturers. It includes buying shares in certain firms when they first list on the stock exchange, and helping them finance expansion.*

Firms like a2 Milk, Monash IVF, G8 Education, SEEK, InvoCare.

BUC have investments so we can plan at least some of our future income. We need to report to Council occasionally on BUC's investments managed by UCA Funds, plus what UCA Funds are doing and thinking.



One of our investments: Monash IVF

*It's a task we find interesting, so it is a good one to hand on to a new person!* If you would like to spend about 2 hours a month (online and writing a half-page report every second month), and go to occasional UCA Funds seminars (very nicely catered), where you can pose some justice and mission questions and have them answered, come talk to either Linda Wannan, Mal Rowe or Tim Budge. (Note: this task does not involve any handling of cash or any online financial transactions, so it could be done by an interested person aged 13 to 113. It could also be done on a brief trial.)

**Ministry and Lay Staff.** Notice that much-loved staff go and come? And maybe notice that hours change? Also, pay rates change. And then there is Super and Work Cover, plus Professional Development, and outside Supervision. And telephone allowances. Plus annual leave, sick leave, occasional overtime, LSL and 'Supply'. BUC Finance plays a role in all this: we work with staff, Committees who employ, Council, UCAVicTas payroll, and maintain HR admin files. It is a mutual-learning exercise, *and we are pleased to support BUC Committees and Council efforts to be good employers by performing these tasks.*



**Giving.** The Giving Program is tracking well, as per the graph to the right.

### Tax Questions. And Answers

Q1: *Are Offerings tax-deductible?*

A1: No. Offerings given for the operation of the church and its programs (Olive Way, BUC Arts, CYYA, JAM) are not tax-deductible.

Q2: *Are Donations tax-deductible?*

A2: Only donations to Mission Partners (ASWC, Share Appeal, EAPPI, Christmas Bowl etc) are tax-deductible; Mission Partners issue receipts. Donations to BUC/its programs are not.

Q3: *Are payments for Fundraising products and activities tax deductible?*

A3: No. Fundraising is a payment for jams, a performance, stall products and the like; whereas a donation is a payment with no corresponding goods or services received by the donor.



Finance Team: **Linda Wannan, Mal Rowe, Tim Budge, Tabitha Robert and Abi Bannon-Benham**

## Property Committee

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

- Smoking on the church property. Signs have been prepared and installed near the Olive Way, Hall and Youth Hall doors.
- 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 have been engaged. Proposal is 3 sheds compartment, with separate doors.
- Posts and cabin hooks have been installed to hold the youth hall south doors open as required.
- Cracks in the driveway has been filled with concrete.
- Met with the new ASWC Program Manager (Andi) and discussed property requirements.
- Recommended to Church Council (and approved) the removal of the Japanese Maple trees in the walkway. To be replaced with more suitable trees.

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. Time to be organised and users of the property are to be notified.
- The storage space (shed) in front of the youth hall. Proposal to be drafted and sent to stakeholders for comments, including roof design before engaging anybody in relation to the actual design.
- 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. Times to be arranged with the locksmith for installation.
- Synod Annual Child Safety Check actions are awaiting Food Co-op to 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.
- Youth hall internal office door to be replaced with an external rated 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 Road. Awaiting photo of existing installation.
- Picture rails in the hall for mounting art work.
- Installation of a "pull" sign on the inner church right hand door

Ray Cameron

## > Preaching Plan

September 3	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost 13, Holy Communion</b>	October 1	Sunny Chen <b>Pentecost 17, Holy Communion</b>	October 29	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost 18, What is Creativity?</b>
September 10	Kirsten Parris <b>Pentecost 14</b>	October 8	Graeme Garrett <b>Pentecost 18</b>	November 5	Graeme Garrett <b>Pentecost 19, Holy Communion</b>
September 17	Joan Fisher <b>Pentecost 15</b>	October 15	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost 19</b>	November 12	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost 20</b>
September 24	Carlynn Nunn <b>Pentecost 16</b>	October 22	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost 20</b>	November 10	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost 21</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
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
8/10	Pentecost 17	Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3:4b-14	Mt 21:33-46	G
15/10	Pentecost 18	Ex 32:1-14	Ps 106:1-6, 19-23	Phil 4:1-9	Mt 22:1-14	G
22/10	Pentecost 19	Ex 33:12-23	Ps 99	1 Thes 1:1-10	Mt 22:15-22	G
29/10	Pentecost 20	Dt 34:1-12	Ps 90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thes 2:1-8	Mt 22:34-46	G

# September Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:15 – Meditation 9:30 – Ian Ferguson <b>HC, AA</b>  4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church		10:00 – Olive Way  7:00 – Mulling	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner  5:30 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way  6:45 – JAM Committee	7:30 – YUCY	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 – Kirsten Parris  5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way  7:30 – Church Council	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way		10:00 – Food Co-op  2:00 – EAPPI Afternoon Tea 7:00 – Glitter Balls & Big Hair
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 – Joan Fisher 10:45 – FUNdraising Stall 10:45 – Open Studio  5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner  7:30 – Worship C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way  7:30 – D&E Event	7:30 – YUCY	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 – Carlyne Nunn 11:30 – BUC Cycle  5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way  7:30 – Property C’tee	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner  5:30 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way		
October 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:15 – Meditation 9:30 – Sunny Chen <b>HC, AA</b>  4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner  5:30 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way		2:30 – Coffee