

THE OLIVE BRANCH

April 2016 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

> Meditation

An Easter Reflection

During Holy Week I received news of the death of Rev Eric Gowers at the age of 95. Eric was the minister at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (now Brunswick Uniting Church) in 1977 at the time of Church union, when the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches combined to form the Uniting Church. He remained in ministry in Brunswick until his retirement in 1991. His funeral was held in our church on Wednesday 30th March, three days after Easter.

By strange pastoral coincidence, his was the first funeral I have conducted in our church building. How appropriate that I, the "new" minister at BUC, would preside at the funeral of the "first" minister at BUC (then St Andrew's Uniting Church), that it would be my first funeral in the building, and that it would happen at Easter time. Here is the brief reflection I gave on that occasion.

As we come to mark Eric's death today, it is fitting that we do so at Easter time. For Easter points us to the grave, to the tomb of Jesus, there to encounter God – God the Love that gives life even out of the deepest loss and despair.

Eric didn't believe in survival after death. And I expect that there will be a diversity of views on that among us here. Naturally, we will all come to the Easter story from different perspectives. Whichever way we come, however, we are confronted by a story which says, God does not avoid or bypass death in God's dealings with us. Christ's dying is portrayed as a death in the heart of God, and our faith holds that hope for living arises from this death.

How does that happen?

Is it that God enters so deeply into the suffering heart of humanity through Christ that nothing can separate us from the love that gives life?

Is it that the losses in our own living are engulfed by the loss in God's own life?

Is it that Christ's way of healing compassion, justice and peace cannot be snuffed out by the powers of oppression, but continues through seeming failure and defeat into the lives we lead together now?

Is it that all our endings are transformed by the new beginning in God's life with us?

Where do you locate hope for living?

Here in this Easter place, the place of death, God calls us in Christ to rise up from the darkness of loss into the new dawn of peace with faith, hope and love.

Ian Ferguson



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> Prayer Ministry

Our response to the Pastoral Care model - **Hospitality, Compassion and Community** continues to evolve. A significant aspect of the Ministry of Compassion is prayer. For many years Prayer Points have been included in the both Olive Press and Olive Branch with some prayer requests remaining the same and others changing in response to specific needs and situations.

This is all changing with two new initiatives being introduced. The **Olive Press Prayer Points** will now follow a four week cycle which will ensure that hopefully every aspect of our ministry, mission, community involvement and wider church connections will be included and prayed for. You can view the complete 4-week cycle [here](#).

The second initiative will respond to requests for **personal prayer**. Very soon the Compassion Team whose ministry also includes crisis care will invite people who wish to pray for people in need and other specific situations to join the prayer ministry. Participants will be provided with a candle and a laminated written prayer on which specific prayers can be written. One option being explored is that each month in the Olive Branch a brief report will be included offering (with the permission of those being prayed for) a summary of the people and situations that have been prayed for.

If you want to know more about this Personal Prayer Ministry or want to be part of it please speak to Glenice Cook or Ian Ferguson.

> News

Congratulations to

Wesley & Una Trigg who celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on **Easter Sunday, 27th March**. Their daughter Jocelyn was at worship and she had intended to make an announcement. However unfortunately we have a practice of not having a time for notices for this service.

You may have noticed an abundance of morning tea on Easter Day and this was in part due the generous donation of 6 plates of food from their family celebration.



> Sharing our Faith

Student House Blessing

During worship on **28th February** we welcomed Rose Byrne, new member of the Student House program and blessed all the members for 2016. Anika Jensen (Student House Co-ordinator) introduced Rose and spoke briefly about their retreat which included the stuffing of 2000 envelopes for our Great Envelope Stuffing Challenge (see p11). Anika explained that the program provides rural students with a home and an opportunity to live in intentional Christian community while they are studying at university. She emphasized the importance of the program for development of friendships, relationship and faith development. The program is supported by a very fine committee made up of Ann Soo, Daniel Broadstock, Anika and Ian. The students introduced themselves saying their name, what they are studying and their favourite Bible verse or Psalm.



Meysam Vallipour, studying Electronics, joined the program in 2015, *Song of Solomon*

Lloyd Pendergast, studying 4th year of Secondary teaching, *Psalms 23*

Emily Kidd, 3rd year of Primary Education, *Luke 1:37*



Samuel Rauert, studying Graphic & Digital Design, *Proverbs 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart'*

Karliem (Marli) Kok, 2nd year of Health Science at Monash University, *favourite story - Joseph in Genesis*

Rose Byrne, contemporary performance at the Australian Institute of Music, *Ruth 1:16*



Abi Benham-Bannon, 4th year Geography major, Spanish Diploma, *Matthew 5:38 (ish)*

Brianna Bartley, studying teaching at ACU, *Galatians 23, about all being one*

David Stephens, 4th year Regional Planning at RMIT, *Psalms 20*

Caleb Pratt was unable to participate in the blessing. Ian asked the student questions of participation and commitment and asked the congregation to welcome and embrace them as part of the community of faith. We sang 'May God's sheltering wings' for which Ian had taught beautiful gestures during Children's Time. You can view a recording on our YouTube channel via our website [here](#).

Sydney Rd. Street Party

A great big thanks to everyone who took part in making a wonderful BUC presence at the Sydney Road Street Party on **Sunday 6th March**.

Olive Way was busy all day with about 200 scones and 200 cookies gratefully consumed! Interesting feedback included the observation that many dads came in with their kids for some chill out time and a version of the following conversation played out many times:

Dad: "So.. I can grab a cup of tea and a couple of scones... for free...?"

BUC folk: "That's right"

Dad: ".... Seriously?"

BUC: "Yes, and here's a couple of choc chip cookies for the kids, enjoy!" (Handing over plate)



Dad: "... (stunned silence) but why are you doing this?"

BUC: "We enjoy providing hospitality and a place to chill"

Dad: (beaming) "That's awesome, you guys are great!"

The art display was a wonderful hub of creativity with a few of our artists and Olive Way regulars coming along to mingle with visitors and help with the crafts and activities.



> Sharing our Faith

Welcome Sarah

During worship on **6th March** we welcomed Sarah Tomilson as our Student Minister for 2016. Sarah will be working and worshipping with us until the end of October. Sarah has offered this 'Bio'.

To all the fine folk at Brunswick Uniting Church,

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into your vibrant community as your student minister in placement for the year. It seemed quite fortuitous that I joined you in the lead up to Easter, not to mention the Sydney Road Street Festival as my day one! I felt as soon as I arrived that I was right in the middle of it, which says something warm and inclusive about your community. I also felt I got the chance to meet quite a few folk at the various different worship services, events and gatherings over Holy Week. (Those were the most delicious hot cross buns I've ever had!)

And it has been a wonderful, generous beginning. There is a sense of life and dynamism in the congregation that is infectious. I'm very much looking forward to learning from and with you this year.

So I guess I'd better say a little about myself. If you were wondering where I found this accent, it is a cross-between a Canadian childhood spent in the Albertan prairies and a Melbournian adulthood, with a splash of time spent in southeastern Finland. Although I don't think that has influenced anything except my love of Ruisreikäleipä (Finnish dark bread – so good!) and Finnish singing.

I'm a seeker, an eater and music lover, a story collector. Christianity is in my blood but I took a little while to claim the heritage.



As a child I went along with my Dad and sister to a reasonably progressive United Church in Canada. But when I was twelve years old we moved as a family to Melbourne and I began questioning my identity, eventually walking away from the church. I began my tertiary studies as a music student in piano in 2002. And since then I've been a bit of a perpetual student, moving to an arts degree and now studying theology. During that time I

also did quite a bit of travel, wondering about life and working in cake shops to pay the bills.

However it was after a family tragedy that I had a significant conversion experience and became a Christian in my mid-twenties. I enrolled in a bachelor of theology to learn all about this mysterious faith in which I suddenly belonged.

So with many twists and turns, unexpected events that I never would have foreseen, I found myself putting my hand up for the ministry. And now I'm in my second year as a candidate for the ministry and completing a Masters in Theology.

I've also become increasingly passionate about children's spirituality and the importance of interfaith exchange and conversation. Before becoming a ministry candidate, I worked as the schools coordinator for the Jewish Christian Muslim Association, helping to implement the interfaith workshops they delivered to school students.

So there is so much more to say, but I look forward to continuing the conversation, learning more about you and being involved in the wonderful ministry flowing out from this place. Please come and say hello on a Sunday soon.

Sarah Tomilson

> Student House Faith Spot

David Stephens

"Hello and hi,

My name is David and I am a member of the Brunswick Uniting Student House. I've now been in residence for two years and somehow haven't been asked to write one of these – alas my streak has ended.

I've a range of interests from composing and photography to cycling and trying to befriend every cat I see, which often leads to a host of scratches.

I was born and bred in Geelong, living in a suburb named Newtown. I was within a stones throw from the river, so spent many years returning home from a day of patrolling my watery kingdom plastered in mud and a grin on my face, trekking brown footprints around the house - much to Mum's disapproval.

I'm up to my fourth and final year studying Urban and Regional Planning (honours), which I've found to be a wonderfully interesting and mentally stimulating course. I would encourage anyone geo-politically inclined to give a go.

I've felt so welcomed and loved ever since I moved to BUC, and plan to be a member for some time. If you haven't met me, feel free to say hi – I'd love to share a cuppa.

- For those interested, I'm always looking for excuses to go take photos. If you're up for an adventure – let me know!"



> Worship Calendar

All Age Worship

On **3rd April** we welcome Sarah Tomilson, student minister as our preacher for our monthly all age worship service during which we celebrate Holy Communion.

Welcoming Ceremony

At least once, and often twice, a year we offer people who are new to the congregation an invitation to share their story and publicly express their desire to be part of this community and say that it is their spiritual home for now.

After people have shared their stories these questions are asked:

To those who are being welcomed: "Do you name the Brunswick Uniting Church congregation as your community of faith and do you commit yourself to actively participating within this community?"

Culture of Safety – 'Safe Church' Recognition

BUC is determined to make every effort to put in place procedures that maximise our ability to keep children and vulnerable adults safe. Over the last two years we have worked as a team across children's and youth programs, our many Volunteers and the Olive Way team to establish the processes needed to make sure we care for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our programs.

On **Sunday 17th April** the Moderator will join our worship service for a presentation and acknowledgement of our achievement as a 'Safe Church'. By working together to achieve recognition, we have built our capacity to offer a safe place and prevent the abuse of children and vulnerable adults in our Church and activities.

We'll enjoy a **Cafe Style Morning Tea** after worship as well as the **BUC Expo**.

Ian's weekend off

Ian will be enjoying a week of rest and restoration later in April. We will welcome Ian David as our preacher on **Sunday 24th April**.

> Happy Birthday

Jill Allan, Meagan Ashley, Hayden Bassett, Adrian Brown, Nicholas Brown, Matthew Cameron, Ray Cameron, Gus Coverdale, Zac Coverdale, Meredith Dobson, Alex Ferguson, Emily Hardman, Andrew Hornby, Anika Jolley, Daniel Jolley, Helen Kronberger, Tess Macrae, Ruth McNamara, Hamish Masterton, Julia Potter, Richard Potter, Annie Quail, Ruth Tall, John Venning, Sam Winkler

To the congregation: "Do you joyfully receive these people as fellow travellers along the way of discipleship, and do you commit yourself as a community of Jesus Christ to maintain the life of faith?"

The first opportunity to offer this formal welcome for 2016 will be during worship on **Sunday 10th April**.

Please note that this is not formal church membership although people who do have UCA membership are encouraged to do so.

Please contact Ian Ferguson 0438 547 842 to indicate your interest in participating in the welcoming ceremony.

Elders Commissioning

Also on **10th April** we will commission Steph Gesling and Linda Wannan as Elders of our congregation.

Pentecost Sunday

50 days after Easter Sunday we celebrate the Day of Pentecost. Join us for worship on **15th May** to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Red** is the liturgical colour so make you've got something **red** to wear.

Camp Weekend

Ian David will be preaching again at BUC on **22nd May** while a good number of the congregation are away on camp.

Hmm a difficult to choice to make ...

Combined Worship

On **29th May**, a 5th Sunday in the month, we will be worshipping with the Brunswick Indonesian UC congregation at 9:30am.

Worship will be followed by a delicious soup & rolls lunch hosted by the Community Team of the Pastoral Care Committee.



> Special Events

BUC Expo

Hi Everyone

Save the date! **Sunday 17 April** for the great BUC Expo!
10.45 – 12 noon

After worship morning tea will be offered Cafe Style. The JAM committee will host our first ever BUC Expo during this extended morning tea. Here's all the details

This will be a chance to learn more about all the amazing groups and activities at Brunswick Uniting Church and to find out ways that, you too, could get involved.

Or, if you already lead or participate in a group (or want to start a new one!) – then this is your chance to tell your story and recruit more members or gain more support for your activities.

Each group will have just two minutes to tell us what it is that you do and why it is important. (There are about 20 groups, from official church council groups like the JAM and the Worship committee to book clubs, coffee clubs and walking groups.)

From there, we will set up a World Café style workshop where you'll get the chance to ask a few different groups questions and find out how you too, could get involved.

Table or Wall displays, videos, photo books, music and dramatic performances are all welcome! Let's make it a great chance to share our creativity as well as our passion for making a difference in the world!

Please contact either Saide, Meredith, Kirsty, Abi or Leanne for more information and to register your interest in making a presentation.

Church Camp

20th-22nd May Don't miss out on the wonderful experience that is the BUC Camp. We're returning to the lovely Adekate camp near Creswick.



The theme is under development however you can be sure that there will be lots of opportunities to get to know each other better and simply BE together, as well as the invitation to join in planned activities.

You can book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/KZFN>

Safe Church Training

will be offered for all leaders in the Church on **Saturday 28 May**. 10 am - 12.30pm in the Hall.

Safe Church Manual provided. No charge to attend.

This training is essential for anyone involved in children's and youth programs, Elders, Pastoral Care volunteers, Olive Way volunteers. Anyone interested is also encouraged to attend.

Contact Helen Rowe for further information.

Time for lunch

After our combined service with the Brunswick Indonesian congregation on **29th May** everyone will be invited to stay on after morning tea for a delicious soup & rolls lunch hosted by the Community Team of the Pastoral Care Committee.

FUNdraising Dinner

Save the date now and make sure you're free for the FUNdraising event of the year on **Saturday 18th June**. See FUNdraising News, p11, for all the details.



The Synod meeting this year will start with opening worship and the installation of Moderator Rev Sharon Hollis at 7.30pm on **Friday 3rd June** at Wesley Uniting Church, Lonsdale St.

The business meeting will run from **Saturday 4th to Wednesday 8th June** and will be held at the Box Hill Town Hall, Whitehorse Road, Box Hill.

> Culture of Safety

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

If any member of the congregation – young or older has concerns about the safety of our children, in particular relation to child sexual abuse, or the safety of vulnerable adults, you may speak to Helen Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Culture of Safety Concerns 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 on mobile number 0423 009 813.



> Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

SMP news

People are still telling me how inspired they were to see Leaders and Assistants all standing at the front with the groups of children and young people you teach in the program at our Commissioning service at the start of the term. 'It looked like a third of the congregation out there!' The fact that the Commissioning feels like the blink of an eye ago, says something about the short term this has been! Despite this we managed to have some memorable times.

Introducing our SMP Secretary

– Fiona MacDowall

CYYA committee are glad to announce this role. Fiona is a professional librarian and has databases sorted! We have enlisted her help to deal with administrative processes and for SMP – as a consequence our enrolment and attendance rolls are already running more smoothly and will be more easily updated into the future. We are grateful for the expertise of Fiona and for her presence in the SMP team along with her delightful son Hoth who is in grade 1 this year.



NB If you are one of the people yet to enrol your child or young person please remember that it is part of our creating a safe space for them to have basic information about emergency contact details and allergy and health alerts. Please ask Fiona or Julie if you are not up to date with a 2016 enrolment. (We will be chasing you, but it helps if people take initiative!)

Student and Youth Update

What a month for the youth of BUC! **YUCY term 1** culminated in an EPIC sleepover complete with a Tenebrae service, Harry Potter and pancakes (and Anika embarrassingly falling asleep first)! YUCY will recommence on the first Friday back at school (**15th April**) and fortnightly thereafter.

YUCY OG (years 10-12) have been engaging in monthly dinners at various members houses and some interesting post-church chats! Our next coffee will be after church on next **Sunday 10th April**.

With university back in full swing, the **Student House community** has been busy! We've had some wonderful theological discussions and food-eating times so far.

SMP Artist-in-Residence – Ian David

May 2016 Many of you will fondly remember Ian David our student minister of 2014. CYYA have seized the day and Wolfgang returns for a May series of Children's Address and SMP leading moments. This coincides neatly with two preaching invitations for Ian at BUC on 24th April and 22nd May. The goal for CYYA co-opting Ian is to build on some of the rapport and skills in imaginative play that we witnessed when Ian David was amongst us.



Imagination, Play and the Biblical Text

Ian David will host this workshop no doubt full of laughter and beautiful learning. Imagination, Play and the Biblical Text – these are not words that usually in the same sentence! Don't miss it. **SAVE THE DATE Sunday 1st May 12 – 2.30pm**

Padraig O'Tuama – poet and theologian



Speaking of inspiring teachers, people of all ages will be pleased to know that Irish poet, Padraig O'Tuama is in Melbourne **May & June**. Padraig has been booked for two Bible Studies at BUC, watch this space!

Julie Perrin, Children & Youth Co-ordinator

Shout out to Dave for his wonderful composing for the Good Friday Service and Brianna and Abi for their work in Love Makes A Way!!

EXTRA SPECIAL SHOUT OUT to Karlien Marli, who will be departing the Student House program in early April for some new adventures. It's been wonderful to have you as a part of our vibrant community throughout the past 2 years. We farewell you with blessings and hope you won't be a stranger!!

The **Community Building Day**, scheduled for 9th April, has been postponed and is now likely to be held on **Saturday 16th April**. More details coming soon.

Anika Jensen, Interim Youth and Student House Worker

> Discipleship & Education News

Revelation Series

What an extraordinary privilege it was to have Rev. Sunny Chen share his knowledge about the book of Revelation for three weeks in February-March hosted by the Discipleship & Education committee.

Study 1 offered us insight into the 'Four Common Misconceptions' about Revelation. We learnt that in fact Revelation is part 2 of story that begin with the prophets and in particular Daniel; that the Mysterious Symbols are all explained; that you can't read Revelation chronologically because there is a major digression in the middle and finally that the book is not about 'End-time'. The major focus of this first study was on the present as offered in 2:1-3:22 in relation to the Seven Churches.

In Study 2 Sunny demystified the Motif of Evil Trinity. In summary the Dragon is Satan, The Invisible One, the Roman

Empire; the Beast from the Sea (666) is the Ruler, the Front Man, The Emperor: Domition and The Beast from the Land is The False Prophet, the Behind-the-Scenes Promoter, the Evil Cult.

In Study 3 Sunny showed us how to decipher the Symbol of Babylon which we read about in Revelation 16:17-18:24. He discussed figurative and literal interpretations and emphasized that the writer was telling the readers that God says 'I know' (what is happening) and 'I will' (do something).

So this inadequate summary provides only the merest hint of the richness of the series. Recordings and copies of the powerpoint slides are available. If you have even the slightest interest in the Book of Revelation please do request access to the recordings. Copies of the powerpoint presentations can also be made available. Just email saide.cameron@bigpond.com

Saide Cameron

> Presbytery News

On 27th February, I headed out alone to Presbytery at Hopper's Crossing since neither Ian nor Carlynne could make it, struggling to contain my sobs lest they interfere with my driving. But hopefully, at the next meeting, I'll be joined by my newly elected fellow Presbytery rep, Helen Rowe (Brunswick gets two reps, not one, because we're big) AND Ian as our minister AND Carlynne as a Candidate for Ministry. Let the Brunswick take-over begin! Mwa-ha-ha.

But first, let's return to the last meeting. After worship, the agenda began with a pastoral letter from the Chairperson, Paul Blacker. In it, he expressed joy at how we further God's mission in this Presbytery. He also acknowledged challenges – some tensions which arose last year, and important reviews planned for this year – and encouraged us to continue taking responsibility to make positive contributions to the life of the Presbytery. His letter was warmly received.

Instead of an education session, we broke into small groups to brainstorm areas in which we would most like the Presbytery to help provide education, for us and our congregations. In my group, most people wanted help either with basic church admin, or with intercultural understanding and communication. A Presbytery Education Day on the latter subject was already scheduled, and I should invite you all to come, but I can't for the life of me find any details about it. Possibly our mostly delightful Presbytery should invest a little more effort in its website... (I'll suggest it)...

As well as the usual reports, there were two major presentations. Chris Barnett, a Children and Families Ministry Facilitator based at CTM, spoke about Messy Church and how this relaxed method of developing missional faith communities (which is not just a program for children!) is proving useful across Australia in various denominations. Later, Bob Hodges spoke to us as Chair of the Synod Project Control Group which

is forming a new agency board to oversee most Vic/Tas UnitingCare agencies, including Regen. He explained that the single board would provide a stronger voice to the Government, helping to secure more funding grants in an increasingly competitive environment, and ensuring that money gets to where it is most needed.

Because vacancies arose in various committees over the past year, we held a special round of elections to try to fill some gaps until the usual (bi-annual) elections in November. We elected eight people to various positions, including vitally important Chairs for both the Mission, Strategy and Education and the Pastoral Relations Committees.

The meeting concluded with some special 'matters of concern'. First, Paul Blacker alerted us to issues caused by Government changes to super and pensions that could affect retired ministers. Second, the Presbytery affirmed a strong statement about the Sanctuary movement, acknowledging that it might break the law but saying we are committed to God's mission regardless. It finished:

"The Presbytery of Port Phillip West stands in solidarity with our Uniting Church members who, as an act of following Jesus, are offering their church building as a sanctuary and supporting asylum seekers in different ways. We call on Uniting Church members across Port Phillip West to pray for and, if needed, offer practical support to those who are offering sanctuary to asylum seekers across the Presbytery of Port Phillip West."

I'd spent the previous week coming to terms with the risks we might face at Brunswick, having declared our church a Sanctuary. The Presbytery's unanimous support and affirmation of our decision warmed me and made me feel stronger. I hope you feel the same.

Kate Scull

> Olive Way News

"Community" has definitely been the catchword at Olive Way recently, with lots of creating, sharing, participating and enthusiasm.



The new SROC (**Sydney Road Opera Company**) group, run by Damian, has been developing their storytelling and songwriting talents and are eagerly putting plans together for a performance soon – stay tuned!

We have also been tapping our shoes to some **swing and rock & roll** beats on Tuesdays, and had the pleasure of a visit from the Salvation Army women's group - which ended, as these things do, in a fairly impressive Nutbush City Limits dance off.

In addition, David has started some **Thursday morning keyboard lessons** and in a couple of weeks Meysam will be firing up a **Tuesday table tennis challenge**. So much going on! And, of course, we still make the best toasties in town.

The **Artstop program** is producing some amazing artwork, I'm particularly taken by some new foam-tile cut prints that some of our artists have been experimenting with.

We are continuing to work up a plan for an exhibition that will hopefully coincide with **Mental Health Week** in early October.



We see this as a great opportunity to open the Olive Way space to our Sydney Road neighbours and beyond, as well as an opportunity for some all important fund raising, and we hope there will be plenty of opportunities and enthusiasm for connecting with the greater BUC community. There may even be a sausage sizzle. Once again, stay tuned!

On a personal note, I am incredibly grateful for the help and support I've received as the Interim OW coordinator, and would particularly like to thank the recently formed OW Steering Committee who's time, energy and enthusiasm have been such a gift to the community.

And lastly;

A Call out to Want to be Cooks – We are looking for a volunteer, or two, who would like to work in the kitchen with the incredibly resourceful Pete for 2-3 hours a week on a Wednesday morning.

The role involves helping to prepare a two-course meal for our Olive Way visitors and although no experience is necessary, it's desirable that volunteers have at least some basic cooking/food preparation experience. If you would like further information please contact me, or email Pete Murphy directly: pedaah@gmail.com

Our doors are open to everyone and we hope to see you at Olive Way soon!

Fi Bottcher, Interim Olive Way Coordinator

feigh.b@gmail.com, 0421 027 467



> More News

Farewell to

Mikul Denison, off to Ukraine for 3 months. He will be working with Red Cross, establishing a new hospital project in the areas affected by the recent civil conflict.



Hot Cross Bun Lunch

During the Words of Dismissal at the conclusion of the Good Friday worship service Ian says *'No morning tea today, but gather at 12 for soup and hot cross buns at Adrian and Anita's – it is right that Christ's people should be together on this most holy day because we are a community born at the cross.* And so we do. It's impossible to know how many people attend both from our congregation and from the wider community. It's an extraordinary event and one that is greatly anticipated and very much enjoyed.

Alistair & Colma generously provided a vast array of amazing flavoured soups. I'm not sure if it's possible to try every one but I gave it a good try with just a spoonful or two of each of the ones that I did manage.



Ray cooked 30 dozen hot cross buns this year (up on last year) in three varieties: traditional, choc chip & white chocolate & cranberry. Natalie was on hand the whole time and lots of young people learnt how to roll the dough in just the right way to make perfect hot cross buns. There was a constant queue for buns, hot from the oven.



Deb & Mikul washed & dried all afternoon to ensure that there was a more than adequate supply of cutlery, bowls, mugs & glasses to aid us in our feasting.

Adrian & Anita generously opened their home having roamed the neighbourhood borrowing BBQs to heat and the keep the soups warm.



Saide Cameron

> FUNdraising News

The Great Envelope Stuffing Challenge

This unique and spontaneous event was held over a 24 hour period on **26th-27th February**.

Peter Allan offered these words of appreciation:

Many, many, thanks to all who contributed so generously of their time for the recycling envelope stuffing. As we reached our spectacular goal with 1 and a half minutes to spare over 24 hours, it is clear that we could not have achieved this without every persons dedication. I would particularly like to thanks Natalie, Glenice, Barry and Andrew who all put over ten hours each into this. We would like to extend our donation to the great work of Olive Way to \$4000. This has been a wonderful experience with social and environmental benefits.



Lenten Stall

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and made purchases from the Lenten FUNdraising stall after worship on **20th March**.

We raised approximately \$500 from a combination of preserves, Easter treats, plants, clothes & aprons.

FUNdraising Dinner & Auction

We're very excited about the dinner to be held on **Saturday 18th June**. We will be raising money to support the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre.

It's been quite a few years since we've held a dinner and so we thought - why not? Peter, the amazing Olive Way Chef, has agreed to cook for us. Alistair, our well known auctioneer, will entertain us once again.

We're hoping to auction 12-15 quality items as well as offering a selection of smaller items in a silent auction format. Get your thinking caps on and make a submission. We are planning to be selective this time to make the experience a little less overwhelming than for previous silent auctions.

Saide Cameron

> Palm Sunday

We began Palm Sunday, **20th March**, at BUC and then set off to join the Brunswick Baptist, St. Ambrose Catholic, Christ Church Anglican and Brunswick Salvation Army congregations for our Palm Sunday Ecumenical service. The Baptist congregation returned with us. Ian and Litha offered greetings.

We acknowledged Nowruz, the Persian New Year. Behzad explained the various symbols and their significance.

Ian wrote Prayers of the People in response to these symbols. The prayers were offered by Helen from BUC and Ilsa from the Baptist congregation.



You can find a copy of the Prayers of the People with images on the [News](#) page on our website.

> Easter Storytelling



This event, held on **23rd March**, was new in our Holy Week calendar this year. You could be forgiven for asking why add anything more in? I think it is a mark of Ian Ferguson's openness and creativity that he was up for it in every way. The event ending up being bigger than I imagined, with substantial attendance for both the under 10's children's telling and the telling of Luke's narrative.



We gathered for a 'simple meal'. But as you know these things are never simple and we have Kirsten Parris, Sheila Calwell and our current ministry student Sarah Tomilson to thank for their hard work in the kitchen. Nagma Datt fed the storytellers and Andy Calder, Mick McCarthy, Linda Fisher all assisted with door/gate and dish wrangling. Saide Cameron prepared the signage and Ann Soo hosted the Olive Way space.



Our thanks go to Godly Play storyteller Jeanette Acland for holding the children's storytelling and to Faye Findlay for hosting that space. The Youth Hall was bursting with parents and children, people sat on or close to the floor while Jeanette laid out the story. There were wondering questions and artmaking to follow.



The telling of Luke's Passion involved five local tellers from BUC—Fi Bottcher, Ian Ferguson, Steph Gesling, Saide Cameron and Julie Perrin. Natalie Sims was our musician on violin and snare drum creating small breathing spaces between sections of the story. We were grateful to visitors Lorraine Threlfall from Shepparton Uniting Church, Julie Hall—St Michaels Uniting Church, Annette Buckley—Pascoe Vale Uniting Church, Katherine Jones—Collins Street Baptist Church and Christina Rowntree—Ormond Uniting Church



Afterwards people commented on the way a story spoken from memory is received in a different way to a reading. They said things like "It allows the story to come to you unimpeded" and "I've been hearing that story all my life but I heard things I have never noticed before."



Thanks to all the tellers who put the love and time into learning words by heart.

Post Script: As folk at BUC may know, I have a commitment to this practice and many of the tellers are ones who have come to the Art of Story short courses that Christina Rowntree and I offer at the Centre for Theology and Ministry. The next course is June 16, 23 and July 14 three daytimes and final evening July 28.

Julie Perrin



> Maundy Thursday



On Maundy Thursday, **24th March**, we continued our Holy Week journey turning our attention to the upper room in which Jesus where he washed his disciples feet, shared a last meal and went out into the garden to pray. We moved through three stations as we listened to the musicians singing 'The Basin & the Towel' and read the readings which were displayed for personal reflection.



John 13:1-17 We had our feet or our hands washed.



Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 We made prayer boats, a symbol of community and a reminder.



Luke 22:39-46 We wrote prayers on purple sails for the time of trial and set them in our boats.



We moved into the church to share Holy Communion taking time to eat our, more substantial thanks usual, pieces of bread and to drink our juice or wine.

We returned to the gathering space to pray and place the left over bread & wine with the towels and bowls, to float our prayer boats in the baptismal font and to pray as we sang 'In Darkness', a song written by Julia Potter for the Tenebrae service in 2015.

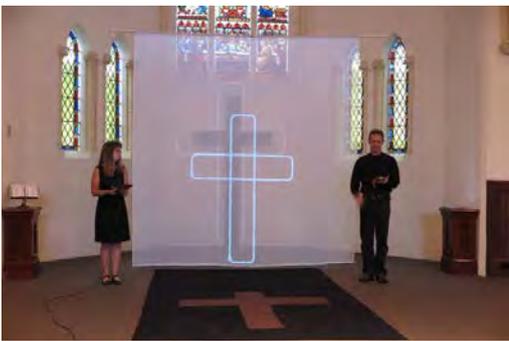
And we left ready to return again for our Good Friday remembering.



> Good Friday



On Good Friday, **25th March**, we gathered to hear and respond to the story of Christ's passion. As we listened we watched Olivia Potter's extraordinary drawings appear on the screens as they were projected onto the curtain. We sang David Stephen's hauntingly beautiful original song 'Christ out Lord' and watched the Good Friday Prayer Garden emerge with objects and symbols from Ash Wednesday, Lent and Maundy Thursday. We wrote our prayers on black crosses and laid them in the garden as we came forward to venerate the Cross.



You can view Olivia's extraordinary drawings on the [News](#) page on our website.

> Dawn Service



At 7am on Easter Day, **27th March**, a small group gathered in the damp misty morning to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Ian lit the fire after we listened to Saide's telling of John 20:1-18. We followed the newly lit Christ Candle into the Gathering Space where Ian invited us to participate in a remembrance of baptism and we lit tapers to offer our prayers.

After worship we enjoyed a delicious breakfast of fresh fruit, pikelets and croissants.



> Easter Day



Our Easter Day celebrations continued at 9:30am singing 'Christ our Lord' with a new resurrection verse followed by a telling of Luke 24:1-12. Ian lit the Christ candle with the children's assistance and we processed into the Worship space singing Alleulia. Ian invited the children to gather round a modified version of the Good Friday Prayer garden. After an exuberant retelling of the gospel story, naming the characters and elements of the story the children quickly identified the flowers as being the new thing in the garden.



Ian reminded us of the prayers that we had offered through Lent & Holy Week and we joined him in offering a response to each of them.



On Ash Wednesday we wrote a prayer in response to 'What must we lay down & what must we take up? We burnt our prayers marked our foreheads in ash with the a cross and then took home a small wooden cross to remind us of our prayers through Lent.



We prayed the prayer of the boats on Maundy Thursday to be carried through the storm and the flood to the tomb of Jesus and beyond.



We remembered the prayers that we wrote on the black crosses for Good Friday which we placed Jesus' cross and stretched out our arms to remember that Jesus takes his prayers into his own body.



And finally we prayed the prayer of the flowers opening up in new life to the sun. Ian invited the children to place flowers in the garden which we were then invited to take home after worship.



Many thanks to Valmai and Jenny for the beautiful flowers.



After the sermon we celebrated Holy Communion.



Ian offered the final blessing from the Easter Garden.



And finally a moment to say thank you to the many musicians who participated in Holy Week worship. We often comment on how blessed we are with our wonderful, generous musicians who so beautifully enrich our worship. This was and always is especially true during Holy Week. A final amazing rendition of 'You are Holy' brought a well deserved round of applause.

> Regular Events

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.

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.

Table Church

We gather to share a simple meal of soup & bread and dessert on **Sunday evening**, 6-7:30, 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 week/fortnight or just as you are available. If you are interested, or just want to know a little more, please contact Tim (0412 051 574) or Ann (0422 842 244).

The Olive Way

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

New volunteers are always welcome.

Contact Fiona Bottcher, ph. 0421 027 467.

Meditation

There are four Meditation groups available

With Andrea: **Tuesday at 9.30am** at Brunswick Uniting Church
Contact Andrea Alvis, 0413 950 619, for more information.

With Richard: **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.

See '[What's On](#)' on our website for information about meditation events

Out and About Group

A social group for older, active women and men. The group meets monthly to visit places of interest or simply enjoy sharing experiences over coffee. Some activities may involve an entrance fee or refreshment purchase. New members are always welcome. Contact Helen for further information.

Mobile 0423 009 813 or email helen.rowe@rocketmail.com

Mulling

Our next meeting on **Tuesday 5th April**, 7pm at Emily's home.

Mulling is our monthly catch up/discussion/mulled wine appreciation club for young adults 25-35. We will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month for the rest of the year.

Talk to Sarah Curnow for more info, 0422 223 842.

Book Club at BUC

Wednesday 27th April, 7.30 – 9 pm,
Olive Way, Brunswick UC

The maker of heavenly trousers by Daniele Varè – what a great title! Set against the mysterious and turbulent backdrop of Peking with its disparate inhabitants in the early twentieth century, this book is a charming, and at times tragic, story of love and family. It was first published in 1935 and is now a modern classic.

Come and join in the discussion. For more information speak to Faye 9379 1317 faye.findlay18@gmail.com or Christine 9386 8919 christine@hornby.id.au.



Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Have you been to Food Co-op yet?

Opening Dates: **16th April, 21st May**

Olive Way, Saturdays, 10 am – 12 pm.

For more information speak to Christine Hornby, 9386 8919 or Nicole Lowe, 9354 5045

Saturday afternoon coffee

Meet at 'Roy's on Melville', Melville Rd. West Brunswick, at 2:30 pm, usually on the **first Saturday** each month. It's very informal, and all women are most welcome. For any queries regarding transport, contact Leanne Salau, 9386 1484.

> Reports

Church Council

Easter salutations from your obedient Church Council.

We pray that you have known the peace of the risen Christ in this blessed season. We expect, also, that you have not over-indulged on seasonal chocolate, but rather maintained the dynamic, toned physique that the Church requires of you.

At our March Council meeting we welcomed our incomparable new Council members Steph Gesling and Linda Wannan, who, in a development worthy of the Book of Acts, has consented to become our new Treasurer.

We formalised the allocation of Council roles for 2016, designated as follows:

Chair – Shawn Whelan

Secretary – Daniel Broadstock

Treasurer – Linda Wannan

Children Youth and Young Adults – Ann Soo

Justice and Mission – Meredith Budge

Property – Ray Cameron

Discipleship and Education – Daniel Broadstock

Property Committee

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

- The tender response from the roof contractor has increased due to the increase in the cost of tiles. This requires that the project is re-submitted to Church Council, Presbytery and Synod for approval prior to proceeding.
- An over flow flap outlet has been installed on the storm water pipe into the south side water tank of the hall. The previous arrangement was overflowing onto the wall and contributing to the water damage on the hall walls.
- Colin Hunter and Geoff Thompson have volunteered to mow the church lawn.
- Rodent baits have been laid.
- Maintenance items at the manse have been undertaken.
- South side sump pump put cleared out of gravel.
- Repairs have been undertaken on the water tank for the ASWC roof.
- A wireless router has been installed in the church office and the printer has been modified so that people with access can now print over the LAN.

Staff Support – Andrea Alvis

Olive Way Steering Group – Andrea Alvis

Wider Church and Presbytery – Kate Scull

We hope to invite members of committees not presently represented by particular Council members to attend intermittent Council meetings.

We gave some thought to whether some roles within the Church currently performed on a volunteer basis might more appropriately be allocated on a salaried basis. We hope to give more discernment to this as we develop our new Strategic Plan over the course of the year.

Council welcomed the transfer of Helen Rowe's membership to BUC, and encouraged congregation members to consider attending the Triple Letter Dinners.

Otherwise, all is well. Our finances are sound, plans are well underway for the renovation of the Church roof, Ian's braid remains in magnificently good health, and your Secretary retains the appearance of Goliath's younger brother.

Your dutiful servant,

Daniel 'Big Sec' Broadstock

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

- Submitting the insurance claim for the stolen items and to then replace them.
- Quotes being obtained to repair water/sewage pipe at the manse.
- Proceeding with the roof replacement once the project has been reapproved by Church Council, Presbytery and Synod, then contract is in place, the roof works are estimated to take 8 weeks.
- Youth Hall works to continue, path, purchase and installation of new windows, new lock on the north door.
- Manse cracks filled and painted.
- Re-measure the moisture in the soil under the church.
- Gutter on the youth hall to be replaced due to corrosion.
- Investigating the professional cleaning of the hall kitchen multiple times per year to maintain them in a clean state.
- The door closer on the door between the Olive Way and the Church is being investigated in an attempt to ensure that it shuts in a timelier manner.
- Investigating child proof locking arrangements for the gates on the youth hall front yard.

Ray Cameron

Worship Committee

28/2 – Lent 3: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8 During the Children's Address Ian taught the children (and therefore the congregation) gestures to the beautiful blessing 'May God's Sheltering Wings' which we later sang to the students as part of the Student House program welcome and commissioning. You can watch it You can view a recording on our YouTube channel via our website [here](#). You can also read the Student House Blessing story on page 3.



Ian began the sermon with his favourite joke which you will simply have to listen to on the recording. He said that he was going to 'squeeze every bit of metaphoric juice of the joke until it's got absolutely nothing left.' He posed a number of questions which can't be shared out of respect for the joke. To answer the questions he turned to scripture.

We looked at Isaiah 55 to reflect on whether or not God is a merchant and discovered that God is in fact an anti-merchant inviting the people to *ditch that expensive Babylonian junk food . . . the rich food and pure water of life and love are free at my table.* Ian commented that *The metaphor deliberately clashes with the reality of our world. A merchant who gives us everything we need for free.*

We then considered whether or not God gets thirsty. Ian reminded us of Gospel of John and the story of Jesus and the woman at the well. He said *'It's a paradox – he is thirsty and he is the source of living water'*. And then on the Cross Jesus is given sour wine in response to his request *'I am thirsty'* and so dies thirsty. Ian said that the symbolism of this story is heightened when *the soldiers pierce Jesus' side and blood and water come gushing out.*

Ian told us about the Prayer Vigil held by Love Makes a Way during the week and the concern of the police officer for their well being with respect to drinking enough water. Ian said *'We drank plenty of water on Tuesday but our very presence there proclaimed our thirst, God's thirst for righteousness, justice and peace.'*

Ian concluded *'I was thirsty says Jesus and my thirst is the suffering of the world. So friends in our desert wandering through the bizarre and sometimes unsatisfying offerings of the world when we thirst for meaning, for hope, for righteousness, for love, for compassion know that in Christ our God goes this way with us, thirsting and at the same time graciously offering all that our souls crave, all that the world needs. Yes our God is thirsty and she gives thirst-quenching love for all time.'*



6/3 – Lent 4: 2 Corinthians 5:16-2; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Once again we appreciated the leadership of a number of our young people as they lead prayers and offered the Bible readings. Charlie and Fergus Moorhouse offered the Bible reading during which we also sang the story in 'I will arise and go to my father'. Ian and Julie engaged the children in a vibrant retelling of the story with lots of reaching out gestures. They reminded us that God is reaching out to us just like the Father in the story reaches out to his sons. They asked 'What will we do?'



Ian introduced his sermon saying *'The story of the Prodigal Son carries us into the dance of forgiveness and in dancing that dance we find ourselves to be in a pas-de-deux, a duet danced with God, a duet which God both instigates and leads'*. He described the characteristics of the dance saying that *'It's a beautiful dance. . .'* He explored the negative moral pressure of the view *'You're a Christian. You should forgive.'* commenting that it's *'destructively anti-Christian'* and that *'In Gospel terms forgiveness is a 2-way dance. Grace meeting repentance, leading to reconciliation. That is the duet of forgiveness.'*

Ian told us that when he is looking for contemporary stories of forgiveness he always turns to <http://theforgivenessproject.com>. He shared two stories saying that *'Both stories are told by the wronged who are seeking to forgive but are unable to do so. If we apply today's Gospel story to them they are stories of the father reaching out with grace hoping for a change of heart in his child for a repentant return, for reconciliation.'*

He shared the stories of Ray Minniecon, a pastor who has dedicated his life to supporting members of the stolen generation and Peter Tatchell who is a gay human rights campaigner who works to overcome the *continuing Christian inspired persecution of gay people*. You can read their stories on the website. Ian also made reference to George Pell and the way in which the story of the victims of abuse reaching out is *like the end of the Prodigal Son's story*.

Ian concluded *'This is the dance of our faith. ... It's a dance with some very difficult and very painful steps in it. But ultimately a dance of sublime celebration. We're going to get a foretaste of that celebration in a moment here around this table. There is much still to be reconciled in our world and we will carry that incompleteness with us to the table. But feasting here today know the rejoicing of heaven at the turning that is taking place, at the journeys that are being made and know that the dance is in full swing. We are on our way home and God has come out to meet us here.'*

13/3 – Lent 5: **Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8** For the final Sunday in the season of Lent Daniel spoke with the children about waiting for the most special thing of all. He commented (from experience) that often when we get the thing we want after a while it's just not important any more. Talking about Mary's gift he said that Mary thought that the perfume could never be as important as Jesus and no thing could be as important as caring for and loving one another.



Ian's sermon focussed on our Lenten Prayer 'What must we lay down and what must we take up? He asked *'How you going with that? What are you discerning?'* Ian reminded us that *'Jesus Christ is our model for laying down and taking up. ... who in the Gospel of John says 'I am the Good Shepherd and I lay down my life for the sheep.'* He commented that *'In Christian terms then laying down and taking up is a whole of life thing.'*



He went on to speak of the Apostle Paul who in the letter to the Philippians talks about this in terms of the gains and losses of his life. *'I was an insider to the law ... but now that I have come to know Christ all that is valueless to me. Thus Paul lays down his life in order to take it up.'* He spoke of Isaac Watts and his hymn 'When I survey the Wondrous Cross' and the way in which it absorbs and crystalizes Paul's sentiments. Finally we watched a scene from the movie Calvary in which Father James wrestles with the question *'If his faith is more than the fear of death where will that lead him? What will he lay down and what will he take up? Will he lay down his faith or will he lay down his life?'*

Ian then went on to comment that *'In Christian faith the laying down of our lives is not about dying, it's about loving. Jesus says no-one has greater love than this to lay down one's life for one's friend.'* He reminded us that Mary of Bethany shows us how to love in *a sensual intimate passionate gesture of pure self-giving love, a gesture out of tune with the economy of worldly things.*

Concluding Ian asked *'What are the <vain things> for us? The expensive perfumes, the fears and possessions, social status and belonging, personal identity and security, even the certainties of our religion. What must we lay down? Thank you Mary for showing us the beauty of faith laid down and taken up in love. In the name of Christ. Amen.'*

20/3 – Palm Sunday: **Luke 19:8-40** Palm Sunday was a day of riches which included our Ecumenical Walk and celebration of Nowruz. See the Palm Sunday picture story on page 12. It was a delight as always to have the Baptist congregation return with us to conclude worship and enjoy morning tea together.



Ian offered a brief reflection on the Palm Sunday story beginning with Jesus telling the disciples to go and find the colt commenting that *'It happened just as he said because his word can be trusted.'* Ian said that *'That's the point of this odd little clairvoyant story. His words can be trusted. ... Does he have a trustworthy promise for our lives?'*

Ian explained that the act of riding the donkey was an enactment of Zechariah's prophecy which includes the words *'... he shall command peace to all the nations.'* He explored the responses of the crowd to the fulfilment of this prophecy on Palm Sunday and then a few days later when they are crying out 'Crucify him'. Ian reminded us of Jesus' prophecy of his death and resurrection to the disciples. He said that *'His word requires us to hold together promises that seem contradictory – eternal peace on the one hand, suffering and death on the other'* and asked *'Where are we in this story of promise?'*

Ian shared three ways of responding saying that he finds himself in all of these categories at different times but said *'What I really want for my life is to be like Mary'*. He reminded us of Elizabeth's response to Mary's pregnancy and said *'Mary is blessed because she believes God's word would be fulfilled and thus she is our model for faith that trusts in the promise of God.'* Ian concluded *'In a trivial way the donkey shows that the word of Mary's son can be trusted, the promise of peace for all creatures ... a peace that comes through death and resurrection. ... Like Mary do we trust his promise, his word enough to join our lives to it?'*

27/3 – Easter Day Holy Communion service: **Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 24:1-12** Worship began in the Gathering Space where we heard the Easter story before moving to the Worship Space to celebrate in the Easter Garden. See the Easter Day story, page 16

Ian invited us to reflect together on the Easter story asking 'Do you have a good memory? ... What memories do you carry of Easter?'. He told us that 'The Gospel of Luke tells us that the meaning and the joy of Easter comes through remembering' and restated the words of the angels at the tomb '...Remember how he told you ... Then they remembered his words.'



Throughout the sermon we watched scenes from the movie 'Still Alice', a movie that Ian said is about 'remembering and forgetting.' He said that Alice, as she suffers from early onset Alzheimers, is not unlike the women at the tomb who have back in chapter 8 'encountered healing reconciling power which has brought them in from the margins, to the centre of God's life.' Ian commented that Alice's disease pushes her to the margins of life and in the scenes that we watched we saw Alice and her daughter Lydia discovering forgiveness and reconciliation, remembered in the forgetting.



Returning to the gospel Ian repeated the words of the angels at the tomb 'Remember what he told you' and went on to explain Jesus' words. He said that the women didn't get it, the memory was lost and 'so the women come to the tomb expecting death not life. They have forgotten, they have lost their hope. But the angel of life cries 'Why? Why are you here without hope? Why do you look for the living among the dead? Remember. Remember.'

He asked us 'Do we remember the reconciling power of hope this Easter Day?'. He said that 'The biblical community remembers what is past and therefore absent and makes it present in its effects.' He commented on the first Passover and Jesus echoing of this tradition. He said 'In a moment we will perform an act of Easter remembrance around this table. Not just a recollection of past events or stories but a re-enacting, a re-embodiment, a re-remembering of it so that what is absent in the past will become present in power, present to feed our hope.'

We watched the final scene from the movie in which Lydia recites a poetic vision from the play 'Angels in America'. In her loss Alice knows that this scene is about love. Ian concluded 'In the end so much is lost but as on Easter morning there is an angel of life, a vision of hope and remembrance, the remembrance of love, the love which proclaims that nothing is lost forever. This is the word of our living Lord Jesus. All praise be to his name.'

Recordings of the sermons are available on our website: <http://www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/resources/sermons/sermons.php>. If you miss a Sunday or even if you are there I highly recommend listening to them. There's always something new to notice or learn. Try it for a week or two and I'm sure you'll want to keep on listening.

Due to conflicting commitments we didn't actually meet as a committee in March. However we can report on a number of fabulous things that have happened over the previous month.

Dave Stephens and Janet Reus-Smit hosted the worship space during the **Sydney Rd. Street Party**. Janet said that about 60 people came through in the three hours that she was there which is just lovely.

Ian, Saide, David and Olivia had a wonderful time planning for **Holy Week Worship**. You can see pictures and stories about the outcomes of our planning in the Holy Week Story pages, 12-17.

In response to some **worship roster** glitches for the first three months of the year text messages will be sent out to for a number of rosters to help ensure that everything is ready for worship on Sundays.

We had a lovely opportunity to help an elderly man in South Australia whose eyesight is failing by sourcing a copy of **Together in Song large print edition** from the West Brunswick St. David's UC congregation. His stepson wrote to us saying 'Max was like a little boy flicking to his favourite hymns with a broad smile that has been missing recently due to his failing eyesight. I don't think he expected it to make such a difference to his ability to read the words. He is a man who rarely displays emotion and when he opened the book it was obvious he was truly overwhelmed.'

An enthusiastic group met after worship on Palm Sunday to discuss the 2015 **Christmas Eve pageant** in preparation for this year's event.

At our **April meeting** our focus will be planning for Camp Worship and updating our Prayers of the People guidelines. Please check out the **Worship Calendar**, p6, for details about upcoming services.

Saide Cameron

Finance Committee

The Finance committee farewell Mikul Denison, after his successful term as Treasurer, implementing several new initiatives. The "old" team remain: Mal Rowe, Tim Budge, Ray Hardman and Linda Wannan (incoming Treasurer). This year there are further initiatives underway, aided by our Book-keeper Austin Byard. If anyone in the congregation would like to join this dynamic friendly group, where a minimum commitment is one monthly Sunday collection (adding it up and banking), and some participation in the monthly meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month), do consider joining! Be assured, no finance or management experience is necessary, just an interest in supporting the church Council in the financial security and broad development and mission of our wonderful Christian church. Contact Mal, Tim, Ray or Linda for any further information.

If you want to submit receipts for reimbursement please check out the process via our website [here](#).

Linda Wannan

> Preaching Plan

April 3	Sarah Tomilson Holy Communion	May 1	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion	May 22	Ian David, 9:30 am Trinity Sunday
April 10	Ian Ferguson Welcoming Ceremony	May 8	Ian Ferguson	May 29	Ian Ferguson Combined BIUC
April 17	Ian Ferguson Culture of Safety	May 15	Ian Ferguson Pentecost Sunday	June 5	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion
April 24	Ian David	May 15	<i>to be advised, 5:00 pm</i> Pentecost Ecumenical	June 12	Ian Ferguson

> Lectionary

Easter

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
3/4	Easter 2	Acts 5:27-32	Ps 118:14-29 or Ps 150	Rev 1:4-8	Jn 20:19-31	W
10/4	Easter 3	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)	Ps 30	Rev 5:11-14	Jn 21:1-19	W
17/4	Easter 4	Acts 9:36-43	Ps 23	Rev 7:9-17	Jn 10:22-30	W
24/4	Easter 5	Acts 11:1-18	Ps 148	Rev 21:1-6	Jn 13:31-35	W
1/5	Easter 6	Acts 16:9-15	Ps 67	Rev 21:10,22-22:5	Jn 14:23-29 or 5:1-9	W
8/5	Easter 7	Acts 16:16-34	Ps 97	Rev 22:12-14, 16-17,20-21	Jn 17:20-26	W
15/5	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Gen 11:1-9	Ps 104:24, 34, 35b	Rom 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21	Jn 14:8-17 (25-27)	R
22/5	Trinity	Prv 8:1-4,22-31	Ps 8	Rom 5:1-5	Jn 16:12-15	W
2/6	Pent 2	1 Kgs 18:20-21 (22-29) 30-39	Ps 96	Gal 1:1-12	Lk 7:1-10	G

April 2016 Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Easter 2 April 3 9:30 – Sarah Tomilson HC, AA 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	4	5	6	7	8	9
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 7:00 – Mulling	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 6:30 – JAM Committee	10:00 – Olive Way	6:30 – AAA Dinners	6:30 – AAA Dinners
Easter 3 10 9:30 – Ian Ferguson Welcoming Ceremony & Elders Commissioning 12:00 – AAA Lunches 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	11	12	13	14	15	16
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Church Council	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 7:30 – Property Committee	10:00 – Olive Way	7:30 – YUCY	10:00 – Food Co-op ** - Community Building Training
Easter 4 17 9:30 – Ian Ferguson Culture of Safety Recog’n Café Style Morning Tea with BUC Expo 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	18	19	20	21	22	23
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Worship C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way		
Easter 5 24 9:30 – Ian David 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	25	26	27	28	29	30
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 10:30 – Out & About 7:30 – Property C’tee	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Book Club 7:30 – Pastoral Care C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way	7:30 – YUCY	
Easter 6 May 1 9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC, AA 12:00 – Imagination Workshop 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	2	3	4	5	6	7
		9:30 – Meditation 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		2:30 – Coffee