

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

July 2016, Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

## > Meditation



On Saturday 25th June I spoke on our behalf at the World Refugee Day celebrations at Brunswick Town Hall. Here is what I said.

Thank you Aunty Georgina for your welcome to this country. At Brunswick Uniting Church we acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, the traditional custodians of this land since time immemorial. Our church is learning that the land is not ours to own, but to look after; and that if we listen, we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit. Responding to this call, we commit ourselves to work for justice, reconciliation, and care of the earth.

It is an honour to be invited to speak here today. At BUC we strive to make our beautiful heritage building across there on Sydney Rd a place of sanctuary, a place all people can come regardless of race, religion, gender, sexuality, wealth or lack of it, health or lack of it. We want it to be a place to find welcome, shelter and community whether you were born here, migrated here (as I did), or fled here. For this reason BUC is glad to host the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre (ASWC) on our property.

Let me say a bit more about why it is important to us to support the work of the ASWC. First, we understand welcome and hospitality to be core religious values, particularly hospitality to the stranger and outsider – this is utterly central to the practice of our faith and of other religions as well.

Secondly, we understand compassion for those in need to be demanded of us by Jesus and we recognise that same compassion at work in other faiths. Christ's compassion challenges us to stand up in the face of injustice.

For that reason we have taken this idea of sanctuary further. We have offered our building as a place of sanctuary for any of the 267 Asylum Seekers still currently facing deportation to Nauru. Our congregation will house and care for any who take up the offer within the church building for as long as it takes for them to be allowed to stay in Australia. We accept that there will be consequences to this act of civil disobedience if it is taken up, but we are intervening because we cannot accept that we live in a country of cruelty. In this, we are proud to stand side-by-side with other Christian brothers and sisters especially the other Churches in Brunswick (some of whom are represented here today), our friends from other faiths, and all other concerned Australians. Together we say, let them stay.

Letting refugees stay requires more than just a decision by our leaders. It requires the work of hospitality to help people make a home here. And, of course, in giving such a welcome we receive more than we give – our lives are enriched by new friends, different cultures, and shared experiences of new life and hope. We see this around us today and up and down Sydney Road every day.

This is why BUC is proud to be associated with the ASWC, a place of hospitality and welcome, a home away from home. And why we are driven to be a Sanctuary Church, a place of safety and protection from the brutality of Australia's current national refugee policies.

Ian Ferguson

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## > Happy Birthday

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Kate Allan, Jane Allardice, Nicole Batch, Sophie Blake, Helen Burnham, Andy Calder, Joshua Calwell, William Coulson-Bourke, Andrew Cowell, Kylie Crabbe, Narelle Crabbe, Erica Cumming, Klaus Fiedler, Ray Hardman, Sharon Hollis, Steven Hornby, Andree L'Estrange, Susan Matthews, Allason McNamara, Rupert Moore, Emily Moorhouse, Meg Orton, Owen Parris, Olivia Potter, Janet Reus-Smit, Kate Salau-Thom, Kate Scull, Hamish White

## > It's Amazing

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It's amazing we have God Almighty for praising  
It's amazing we have Jesus the King for worshipping  
It's amazing we have love for loving  
It's amazing we have lips for kissing  
It's amazing we have arms for hugging  
It's amazing we have legs for funning  
It's amazing we have eyes for seeing  
It's amazing we have ears for hearing  
It's amazing we have cars for driving  
It's amazing we have bikes for riding  
It's amazing we have pets for patting  
It's amazing we have houses for living  
It's amazing we have beds for sleeping  
It's amazing we have songs for singing  
It's amazing we have books for reading  
It's amazing we have food for eating  
It's amazing we have water for drinking  
It's amazing we have clothes for wearing  
It's amazing we have music for listening  
It's amazing we have trains for travelling  
It's amazing we have pens for writing  
It's amazing we have teeth for chewing  
It's amazing we have noses for smelling  
It's amazing we have the sun for shining  
It's amazing we have soap for washing  
It's amazing we have a light so bring  
It's amazing we have sports of all sorts  
It's amazing we have trees and their leaves  
It's amazing we have firs for fishing  
It's amazing we have churches for praying  
It's amazing, it's all just amazing  
Love God your King, love Jesus your King.

**Gavin Jackson**

Gavin lives at Stewart Lodge  
and participates in the Art Stop program

## > 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.



## Opening worship



The opening service for the 2016 meeting of Synod was held on Friday 3rd June, a wet and wintry night. Brunswick UC musicians (Elaine, Julia and Richard Potter, Alistair Hunter, Shawn Whelan, Natalie Sims, David Stephens and Carlynn Nunn) and others helped to lead the music and Fiona Bottcher offered the reading from 2 Corinthians 3:1-6. We celebrated the installation of Rev. Sharon Hollis as Moderator and offered sustained applause for Dan Wootton as he stepped down from his three years as Moderator. Rev Ken Sumner and Sharon lead the celebration of Holy Communion together. The service was an entirely joyful celebration in which Sharon encouraged us to be living letters, *'listening to each other's story of faith and empowering each other to share that story with the people we live and work amongst.'* You can read more and access video of the service [here](#)



## Synod Reflections

The Synod meeting was held in the Box Hill Town Hall from **Saturday 4th to Wednesday 8th June**. You can read stories and news about the meeting day by day [here](#). Ten people from our congregation attended: Sharon Hollis as Moderator, Stephen Mullen in his role as Director for People and Culture, Ian Ferguson, Shawn Whelan, Julie Perrin, Laurence Alvis and Anika Jensen as Presbytery representatives, Geoff Thompson, Sarah Tomilson and Carlynn Nunn as Centre for Theology & Ministry representatives. Steph Gesling and Julie Perrin co-hosted the Sunday night performance 'Letters from Elsewhere'. See the next page for reflections from some of these people.



## > Sharing our Faith - Synod reflections



This Synod each speaker introduced themselves by name, presbytery and the Aboriginal country they came from - e.g. Ian Ferguson, Port Phillip West Presbytery, Wurundjeri Country - thus we heard from the mouths of all our speakers the rich shape that the dreaming gives to this ancient land on which we called to meet God and be church. It was a highlight for me. At the end of Synod I gave the vote of thanks. Among many other things I said, "Thank you to our moderator Sharon who led us with a smile and a lightness of touch. Thank you moderator, for holding the space for us with prayerful sensitivity and for facilitating our journey of faith through these five days with such grace. Your presence among us is indeed a letter of recommendation written on our hearts by the Spirit of the living God."

**Ian Ferguson**

### Julie goes to Synod

This was my first experience as a member of Synod. It was a privilege to be there. I don't pretend to have understood and absorbed the implications of decisions that were reached, though I highly recommend Shawn Whelan's summaries of discussions! And of course Sharon Hollis, our new Moderator was up front, directing the proceedings with gravity, grace and humour.

#### Very Happy here...

The highlights for me were the bookends of the day – Sally Douglas' Bible studies in the mornings and Pdraig O'Tuama's theological reflections at the end of the day. Sally presented some of the discoveries she has 'excavated' from ancient commentaries and biblical writings in her recently published PhD – who knew how enlivening and challenging this might be?! She lead us to suppressed and forgotten traditions that link Christ to Woman Wisdom and the Sophia of the Hebrew Bible. Sally is a gifted teacher who is well able to lay out an argument in word and gesture. To me, listening to Sally felt like witnessing a moment in theological history. I felt she truly deserved the standing ovation she received on the last day.

#### Not happy ...

I do have a complaint about Synod. When there is such admirable discipline around the practice of speaking there does not seem to be a comparable discipline required of the word length of reports. In particular the Major Strategic Review (MSR) ran to over 80 pages. This would be perfectly fine if it had a good executive summary and was well structured with Appendices

but no! It was not. This made me very cross as it wasted so much time and energy. There were sentences in it which ran to over 80 words. The sentence length recommended for plain English is 20 -25 words. This is poor form and unfair on folk for whom English is a second language. It seemed to me to needlessly complicate and prolong a lot of the business as people tried to come to terms with what it was saying. Ugh!

#### Happy again

Towards the end of Synod there was a debate about the five day length of the meeting – this has come about now that Synod meets every 18 months rather than annually. A quip from Brendan Byrne quoting his four year old was the question, 'Does Synod go forever?'

Pdraig took this up in his poem created for us entitled 'The Seven Days of Synod' – you can imagine some of the themes came up in his creation poem that reflected the raw stories of Genesis. My favourite surprise was that after God created US the next day he created THEM. Now there is the work of Synod. And it wrestles with it well.

Ian was requested to give the final thank yous to all involved in the running of Synod. His humour and close observation managed to make even the routine of acknowledgements a source of surprise and smiles.



**Julie Perrin**

### Laurence's jottings for Synod 16!

After being a member of the Uniting Church for over 30 years, this was my first opportunity to partake in the ultimate decision making process for the church and its people. I found the 5 days very interesting and very tiring!

The whole concept of Synod is an interesting one. Put three hundred plus people in a room, give them over 500 pages of reports and proposals, work them for 12 hours a day for 3 out of the 5 days and expect consultative, reflective, inspired decision making!

The opportunity to speak to many Uniting Church people from many different backgrounds was fantastic, to see what so many other UC congregations were doing across Victoria and Tasmania and their various different ministries was inspiring. The storytelling session one evening was amazing, as was the theological reflections by Pdraig.

Synod was an interesting experience for me, one for the Bucket list, which probably means I'll only do it once!



**Laurence Alvis**



This was my second synod meeting in this Synod after returning from 12 years in the Queensland Synod. The respective styles of meeting in the two synods are very different, and reflect the different ecclesial and, I think, distinct broader cultures.

The Queensland synod meetings are certainly less formal and more culturally-mixed, including a significantly higher-profile and participation of indigenous members. It also has the advantage of meeting at the UCA's own conference centre just a few hundred metres from the Pacific Ocean at Alexandra Headlands! Despite these differences, there are, of course many similarities. We share similar challenges and many of the debates echo each other: stewardship of limited resources; theological diversity; the relationships between First Peoples, CALD and Anglo churches; the forms and demands of discipleship which engage contemporary culture. In both places these various debates are often hard work, and sometime exhausting. But also worth it!

I certainly came away from this Synod exhausted, but also encouraged. Somehow we did manage to listen to each other. I changed my mind on some issues and I know many others did the same as we listened to alternative viewpoints. Whilst sometimes we moved through proposals very slowly, the advantage of this is that we actually got to hear, deliberate and discern without being rushed. We owe a great debt to our Moderator, Sharon, for leading us in this way.

The issues before this Synod were very significant and our decisions will impact on many people. Some Synod and Presbytery staff will be understandably anxious as the decisions about re-structuring Synod Operations begin to be implemented. Synod meetings also provide a particularly focused opportunity to hear stories of faith and discipleship from wider contexts. This one was no exception. Despite the big-picture issues and financial-and institutional-challenges, there was also the chance to hear stories about the great variety of ways in which members of the UCA are following Christ - often with great courage and at significant cost. To hear those stories is always to be encouraged and challenged.

**Geoff Thompson**



How can I describe my Synod experience? An emotional and spiritual roller coaster is the image that comes to mind! Yes it's a big long meeting with lots of reports and proposals, but we also worked very hard at "being the church" in worship, bible study, and fellowship as well. And of course, that's a church that is not only bigger but much more diverse than BUC, in just about every respect.

Along with many others, I got very excited about Sally Douglas' series of bible studies on the early church's understanding of Jesus as "Woman Wisdom" (i.e. God, as imaged in a variety of First Testament texts), and what that meant for them & us. Another theological delight was speed-reading through Geoff Thompson's brand new book *Disturbing Much, Disturbing Many*. I've already told him that I'm duly "disturbed" and want to talk though some of that! A request, I should add, that he very graciously accepted...how lucky are we to have a leading theologian in our midst? These two theologians have had a lot to say to my faith questions, and I'm feeling very inspired by that. Not least, they have both - in different ways - helped me connect my love for the church (which I've never doubted, despite its failings in many times and places) with my faith in God (which I very much have). Much to think & pray about, for which I am deeply grateful.

Of course, as a professional facilitator and mediator, I was also fascinated to watch and participate in our large-scale consensus decision making process. I saw, and felt, wonderful examples of community and of grace. I also saw, and felt, some moments where we as a church community fell well short of that potential. And I was really pleased about some of the decisions we made through that process, decisions that might never otherwise have been made.

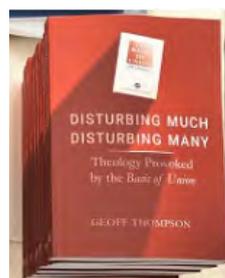
In closing, I would urge everyone to consider attending the next Synod meeting, due around September 2017. If anything, it will be even better, as we established a new Task Group (it is the UCA after all!) with young & culturally diverse members to help plan creative new ways of "doing business" together as church.

**Shawn Whelan**

## Disturbing Much, Disturbing Many



Geoff Thompson's book, a series of theological essays provoked by the Basis of Union was launched at lunchtime on 5th June by Alistair Macrae and Sharon



Hollis who both commented that *'the author was unafraid of writing on the challenging issues'*. To read more about the book and launch visit the Synod meeting website [here](#)

## A trip to Latin America.

### A different perspective of Faith.

A recent trip to Mexico, Cuba Jamaica, Barbados and Grenada expanded my experience of my Spiritual faith and journey. This article is a taste.

In Mexico, the Virgin/Lady of Guadelupe is especially venerated by Mexicans. This passionate experience of Mary, spoke to me as the feminine aspect of faith and Spirit, 'being' (rather than doing) energy, accepting of all with gentleness and tranquillity She is the symbol of Mexico, the heart of its Catholic and Indigenous faith. She symbolised the openness of God/Goddess that the Spirit of her Son was there for a lowly man. I spent much time sitting with her as she was in every church, as I needed to escape the heat, the noise, the hassling beggars, vendors, the hardships of travel and to centre myself in prayer and meditation.



The Virgin of Guadalupe

The integration of Catholic with Mayan, in particular, earth based beliefs, was evident in the cultural and religious experiences I encountered.

Image of a Saint in Church, dressed in Mayan style in Santo Domingo church San Cristobal.



I was so inspired by the colourful, vibrant devotion to Spirit in Mexico (and in Cuba). Aztec, Mayan and other Indigenous Mexican tribal earth based beliefs intertwine syncretically in Mexico. Our faith expression in the West, appears somewhat bland, to me, in comparison. Mexico does colour, constant vibrant devotion, flowers, music, dance, street processions, parades, pilgrimage and celebration of Saints, Mary and Jesus, so well, at every turn.

Chamula Chiapas Mexico



My visits to the Mayan controlled villages of Chamula and Zinacantan in Chiapas, where Zapotec is the spoken language, is hard to express in words or well pictorially as we weren't allowed to photograph the 'church' / ritual or people directly. The incredible, surreal and powerful 'church'/rituals we saw was a melding of Christianity and deep Mayan beliefs in a living traditional culture, as an example of syncretism or combining of two religious /spiritual traditions. It was a privilege to witness a christening, the only Catholic sacrament recognised by the Mayans, to see ancient Indigenous religion and culture being practised syncretically with Christianity, and as an example of interspirituality, in my terms. Due to my Interfaith training, the devotion, faith and strength of belief of the Mayan people, enabled me to see that similar has occurred as a natural evolution in all religions and spiritual paths.

**Mayan Medicine museum.** One of the best museums I visited. It had a traditional chapel with a mixture of Christian and Mayan sacred space, rituals, healing, shamanism etc which explained the 'church services' I saw in Chamula and Zinacantan a few days earlier, with greater depth. The Maya believe in herbs, natural and other healing rituals. It has a current scientific base, known to them for generations, now large pharmaceuticals are attempting to steal their secret knowledge and processes and take control away from the Mayans.



I perceive that syncretism became empowering for the Mayan and Mexican people in claiming Christianity as their own, in their own way, as lifting them up and equalising them with the colonising Europeans religion.

This is a Christian cross with traditional Mayan elements including Cosmological symbols Moon and sun.



St Francis Church San Cristobal.



Association Cultural Yoruba Havana Cuba Santeria Museum of the Orishas Havana.

**After Mexico,** I travelled to Cuba and here experienced the Santeria religion. Santeria is an Afro-Cuban religion with Yoruba having its roots in Nigeria Christian elements.

**Santeria Temple - Trinidad Cuba.** This was an active Temple in the heart of Trinidad in Cuba. It focused on worshipping the Goddess of the Sea, and clearly integrated the Goddess as Mary and the mother of Jesus. It shows a dark skinned Mary, traditional Santeria African symbols and gods.

**Museum of the Orisha's.** I was only able to take one picture in the museum of the about 30 Orishas there. An orisha (spelled orichá or orixá in Latin America) is a god that reflects one of the manifestations of the Supreme God/ the All Father (Eledumare, Olorun, Olofi) in Yoruba religion.

The Santeria religion, and the multiple other African – Christian melds, gained my respect, as again the devotion, the claiming of their African origins, enabled me to see the importance of identity and reclaiming an oppressive history, building on when I learnt about them in my New York based seminary study and participation in some of the Afro- American rituals there.

All the experiences religions and rituals I observed reinforce for me that there is commonality in Spirit for us all, whatever the ritual and symbols, sacred texts, ceremonies we observe, the underlying values of honouring life, the earth, the cosmos, the experience of Spirit, our common humanity and yearning for support and completion, bind it all together.

Jenne Perlstein

To read the full story of Jenne's travels please click [here](#).

## > CY&YA News

### YUCY and OGs

YUCY has been having a great time in this the second half of term 2! We're getting to know some rad new friends, students and a new leader! A recent highlight was the Latitude excursion where we all had way too much fun jumping, climbing and falling, see pictures. We're off now for the next few weeks due to school holidays, our first YUCY back will be **15th July**.

The OGs are well, continuing with brunches and coffees and heading to Asylum Seeker rallies (Hannah Alvis you epic activist) and volunteering at the FUNdraiser (Hannah and Josh thank you muchly!!). The next YUCY OG event will be the Brunswick SC Hairspray musical on the 22 or 23rd of July (any year 10-12 students interests, get in touch with one of your peers, they know what's up).

### Student House and Young Adults

The Student House is just about done with uni for the semester! Most students will be heading home to family for a little break after a pretty full on semester by all accounts. Our students and young people have been doing some amazing stuff, special shout out to Abi for her powerful representation of BUC at Moreland Says No to Racism Rally in late May and Dave, Rose and Karlein for the efforts volunteering at the FUNdraiser.

Finally, I'm off for a few weeks to travel a little through Denmark and Germany! I'll miss the crew and see you all on **27th July**.

Anika Jensen



### Pre-school catch up



A small multi-aged gathering on **17th June** enjoyed the refreshed space of the Youth Hall. The winter light, spacious floor coverings and calming colours were a delight for young and old. The hall is really coming into its own as an environment and this was certainly reflected by the contentment in children and adults alike.

### SMP

Term Two saw very uneven attendance of SMP and CYYA are reflecting on how to read this. We are planning a questionnaire/survey to get some further insights from the congregation.



Julie Perrin

## > Student House Faith Spot

### Rose Byrne

Hi, my name's Rose, I'm new to the Student House community this year. I'm currently studying Contemporary Performance majoring in singing at the Australian Institute of Music.

I'm originally from Hillston in rural NSW where my Dad still lives. I went to high school in Albury and lived with my mum. It's hard to settle into the city considering I've lived in the country all my life. The church community is very welcoming though, I'm enjoying getting to know my housemates and everyone at BUC.



## > Pastoral Care News

### Compassion - Personal Prayer Ministry

From time to time we are all confronted with situations which are stressful and with which we feel overwhelmed. The PC team has gathered together a group of caring members who have promised to spend some time each day lighting a candle and praying a prayer which includes the names those who have requested this.

This is a personal and confidential act and we do not need to know why you have requested prayer if that is your wish. We believe that God knows the innermost workings of our hearts.

If you wish to be included and prayed for please just telephone or email Glenice Cook or Ian Ferguson. Prayers will be offered every day and continue until you request to be withdrawn. Each Friday the Prayer group will be emailed the names of those participating.

If you know of someone who may need prayer please feel free to ask them if this would be helpful and forward their name to us.

If you would like to join this prayer ministry please contact Glenice, 0414 319 649.

Glenice Cook

### Community

*There will be lots of opportunities to gather as community during term 3.*

Stay on after worship for **Cafe Style Morning Tea on 17th July**. Enjoy sitting around the Olive Way tables and having a conversation with the people around you. Both the Pastoral Care and Justice & Mission committees have plans for this date. More details later.

Check out all the details for the **FUNdraising BBQ & Busking event on Saturday 6th August** in FUNdraising News, p 11.

On **Refugee Sunday, 28th August**, the JAM committee will be hosting a **Refugee Meal** after worship to raise awareness of the rations that refugees are provided with as well as raising money to support them. Donations on the day will be welcome.

Join in the fun of **Triple Letter dinners (SSS)** over the weekend of **9th-11th September**. We haven't decided what the 'triple S' stands for yet but we'll let you know as soon as we do.

The worship committee has also scheduled a **Welcoming Ceremony** during worship on **Sunday 11th September**.

Saide Cameron

### Soup & Rolls Lunch

After worship on **29th May** we enjoyed a delicious soup and rolls lunch with the Brunswick Indonesian UC congregation.

Thank you to our soup makers: Ian Ferguson, Sheila Calwell, Valmai Brunlow and Sarah Curnow. The lunch was a truly 'community' run event as not one member of the Pastoral Care Community Team was available to help out on the day so thank you also to Behzad Farhangi, Kimberly Fraser, Mitchell Valentine, Glenice Cook, Ray Cameron and Valmai Brunlow for variously setting up, serving and cleaning up afterwards.

We are looking forward to our next meal on **28th August** and, with the JAM committee, will happily accept all offers of assistance.



Saide Cameron

### BUC Election Forum



Five candidates spoke at the BUC pre-election forum on Tuesday June 21st.

After the acknowledgement of country, Zane Alcorn (Socialist Alliance), Tristram Chellew (Australian Sex Party), Will Fulgenzi (Socialist Equality Party), Peter Khalil (Labor) and Samantha Ratnam (The Greens) were asked to address three questions:

#### Environment

We are part of a religious tradition that believes that humans need to be stewards of creation. Evidence from leading climate scientists suggest that we have not been good custodians of the Earth's resources.

- How do your policies reflect a care for creation and in what way will your party encourage better stewardship of the Earth's resources?

#### Indigenous

- Do you support the creation of a treaty between the 'first' and 'second' peoples of Australia, and/or Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous peoples? Do you think this also has a role to play in improving the health of Indigenous communities and reducing the number of Indigenous deaths in custody?

#### Asylum Seekers

It cost \$1.2 billion to run our offshore detention centres last year - ten times what community detention in Australia would cost. In doing that we are making people who exercise their legal right to seek asylum sick and desperate.

- If we closed the camps - as the churches insist we must - what would you do with that money?

These questions were prepared by the JAM/ABCD group and were chosen to focus on issues that are important to BUC. This was followed by a time of Q & A from the audience, and then a time for informal conversation over supper. Topics raised included Palestinian recognition, equal marriage rights, asylum seekers, affordable housing, election campaign funding, drugs and the potential for violence in the south China sea.



Candidates were asked to be positive and to be themselves, and the forum was conducted in a spirit of listening and politeness. Approximately 120 people came which was great, and only 20 of those were from BUC so we were clearly able to offer something of interest to the wider Brunswick community. Many people expressed their appreciation for the forum, and a number commented that though it may not have altered their vote, they had learnt more about the candidates and had had a chance to raise concerns directly with them which they appreciated.



I would like to thank everyone who helped. Many people did this with a 'Love Makes A Way' hat on as well as a BUC one, and the LMAW presence was vital. Together we were able to produce the flyer, letter box drop, put up a real estate board, advertise on our Facebook page and in the Moreland Leader, invite other churches, put up leaflets in cafes, libraries etc, set up the sound system, set up the space, run the powerpoint, MC, prepare for, supply and serve supper, and clean up.

**Kirsty Bennett**, Member JAM/ABCD

Thanks especially to Kirsty Bennett who coordinated and drove the event and made it very easy for the rest of the JAM committee to support the forum. Feedback from the Labor candidate was that it was the best run election forum he had attended. And another special thanks to everyone who contributed to an amazing supper!

**Meredith Budge**



Our congregation actively supports the work of Act for Peace and in particular through the Christmas Bowl Appeal. Jeff Wild, Development Officer for Victoria and Tasmania, attended a JAM meeting in June to offer his thanks to our congregation for our generosity. He also wanted to share some good news stories and to tell us about the Ration Challenge and Refugee Meal.



Through the **Christmas Bowl Appeal** Act for Peace works with partner churches and organisations to help

people and communities rebuild their lives. Each year eight projects are selected for the Appeal with the feature story for 2015 being Ethiopia. The 2015 target of \$2.45m has been exceeded with \$2.6m raised so far, this is the best result since 1985. The money raised has enabled the building of 92 toilets together with the installation of pumps and wells to provide clean water. People are being trained in their communities to develop awareness of the importance of hygiene.

The **Ration Challenge**, now in its second year, raised money for Syrian refugees living in Jordan. It coincided with Refugee Week, 19-25 June.



Participants were provided with a ration kit identical to that provided to the refugees and asked to live on it for a week. Jeff showed us the kit and it was quite an eye opener to see how little food was provided.

More than 8,000 people took part with \$1,954,729 raised. Next year the JAM committee will be promoting congregational participation in the Ration Challenge.

Groups were also invited to hold a Refugee Meal to complement the Ration Challenge however our calendar was very full at this time so we will be holding a Refugee Meal after worship on Refugee Sunday, 28th August. Any money that we raise will be donated to support the work of Act for Peace with refugee communities.

Act for Peace and UnitingWorld worked together on rebuilding works following **Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu** last year. Over \$1.3m was raised. Act for Peace was the lead agency in coordinating the response.

Jeff spoke about the importance of both community development and research policy development. He shared a story about work being done in the Asian Pacific Region which lead to the development of the Bali Process which enable a more efficient and prompt response to refugee emergencies.

Visit the Act for Peace website to find out more about the amazing work being done by Act for Peace and partner churches [here](#).

Saide Cameron



Protest photo sourced [here](#)

## Refugee week – 18-25 June

Refugee week has seen many BUC members participating in a range of actions and activities starting the protest march on **Saturday 18th June**, the launch of refugee week in Fed Square on Sunday, a special focus on Love Makes Away at the election forum and the Tower window display featuring Olivia Potter's artwork. It was particularly wonderful to see the Love Makes away team lead the entire crowd in the Love Makes Away song.



## Plastic Free July



Let's all take on the challenge and take single use plastic out of our lives for the month of July. Tim and I did it last year and we haven't looked back! It is particularly easy to go plastic free at BUC because of the food co-op! The co-op offers a wonderful range of bulk dry food goods and cleaning products – just waiting for your handy reusable containers to carry them home! Follow the link [here](#) for more information and inspiration and watch the [BUC Facebook group](#) for daily handy hints and to add your ideas and achievements throughout the month.

Meredith Budge

## > FUNdraising News

### ASWC Event



The much anticipated dinner and auction was attended by approximately 80 people on **Saturday 18th June** all dressed up 'la-di-

dah'!! We were delighted to welcome 11 people from Sophia's Spring congregation. It was a highly successful event achieving the two key targets of having FUN and raising money to support the work of the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre. In fact after costs we have raised \$10,170.35 through the dinner (\$3,620), main auction (\$2,880), silent auction (\$1,735), preserves (\$446.50), plants (\$50) and some very generous donations (\$2,130). This is more than double our \$5,000 target.

The process for releasing the money involves the ASWC requesting financial support through the Church Council for an identified purpose or project. It is very exciting to have such a significant amount of money at our disposal. The fundraising page was set up with the support of Jeff Jones, Corporate Partnerships Manager, Lentara. I believe we were the first organisation to use this newly developed facility which enabled us to provide tax-deductible receipts. We plan to make use of this option again next year.



We welcomed Mohammad Isah, Manager of Lentara's Asylum Seeker Program. He spoke about the work being done by the ASWC and offered his appreciation for our contribution and support. There are many people to thank so I'll simply list all the ways that people have contributed: setting up, preparing and serving the meal, offering auction items, attending, bidding at the auctions and cleaning up. Thank you especially to Peter Murphy, our chef, Alistair Hunter, our auctioneer and Dave Stephens, Elaine Potter, Jacquie Tolhurst and Beata Urbaniak who entertained us. Events like these are a lot of work to prepare and host and it's so wonderful when it all comes together on the night with the congregation gathered in community. Check out the fuller version (ie with more photos) of this story on our website [here](#).

### Disaster Relief BBQ

We have two more events planned for this year both of which will be raising money to enable us to respond generously to requests for Disaster Relief. The first of these will be a BBQ outside the Albert St. Woolworths supermarket on **Saturday 6th August**, 10am-3pm. Elaine Potter is organizing a busking roster so that we can cheer people up on an otherwise potentially dull Saturday shopping outing. We also need a roster of people to manage the BBQ. A sign up sheet for this will be sent out in mid-July. Please be ready to sign up and I'd really love to hear from 3 or 4 people who want to help organise the BBQ.

This will be a great opportunity to share our story visually. We'll definitely have our Brunswick UC banner with us. I'd love to gather a group of people to develop some fairly simple displays to give sausage buyers an insight into who we are and what we care about. If this sounds exciting or just like a worth while thing to do please call me on 0407 096 743.

Saide Cameron

## > Port Philip West Presbytery News

The Port Philip West (PPW) Presbytery-in-Council met on **Saturday 18th June** at Hoppers Crossing UC. Helen Rowe attended as newly appointed BUC representative and Ian and Kate were apologies. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of four candidates for ministry. Bruce Crowle (Craigieburn) was endorsed as a candidate for placement having completed the required study and preparation. The Presbytery Ministry Formation Committee recommended three women to commence the process of ministry formation. It was a great pleasure to witness acceptance by Presbytery of Simone Alesich (Deacon) and Fiona Bottcher (Deacon) from our own congregation and Yoo Mi Park of the Korean UC (Word). They move to the next stage later this year.

The main business of the day was to receive the Draft Strategy 2021 report of the PPW Presbytery Mission Strategy and Education Committee presented by Shawn Whelan (facilitator) and Rev. Dr. Adam McIntosh (Presbytery Minister Mission & Education). During the session Presbytery members discussed and contributed to the objectives for the Vital Elements of the Strategy: Following Christ, Collaboration in Diversity and Leadership and Learning. The published [report](#) will be available soon.

A decision was taken to advertise two interim supply positions for Presbytery Ministers, until the end of 2017, created by the retirement of Rev Robert Renton in September and Rev Ann Key currently on leave and moving to a new placement. Arrangements were made for requests for Pastoral Care within the Presbytery to be made through the Chair of the PRC.

**Helen Rowe**



## > Olive Way News

As the days get colder, the toasties get warmer and crumpets with honey go down a real treat! Mmmm, it's all about the warmth at Olive Way this month and Pete's soups and cooked lunches have been going down a treat! Do come join us sometime, a winter warming 2 course meal is served every Wednesday at 12:30 – now in the main hall. All welcome.



Also in the spirit of keeping warm, there's been some renewed interest in both table tennis and a "dance and movement" class. We're asking for interest now, notices are up on the notice board, so if you feel like swinging a bat on a Tuesday, or moving and shaking on a Wednesday, (or both) add your name to the list.

We are hoping to start the "dance and movement" class in July, which will run in collaboration with our new friends from Karingal Training, a group of about 11 adults who have recently introduced themselves by baking us all tasty chocolate treats!

But...

We need a teacher!

If you know of anyone who would be interested in running a once a week dance/movement session – nothing too technical, just some simple stretches and moves to music – please let Fiona know. It will be a paid job.

And, as always:

We are keen, really keen, to hear from anyone who wants to volunteer, in any way!

Oh, one more thing – have you noticed the crafty addition to our dear old couch? It's been fun to see it come to life with bits and pieces that people have brought in. Who knows where it will end. Stay tuned.

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



**Fi Bottcher,**

Olive Way Coordinator, [feigh.b@gmail.com](mailto:feigh.b@gmail.com), 0421 027 467

## > News



### Welcome

We formally welcomed Tabitha to the Student House program during worship on **29th May**. Tabitha is from Sri Lanka and is doing a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University.

### Happy Birthday

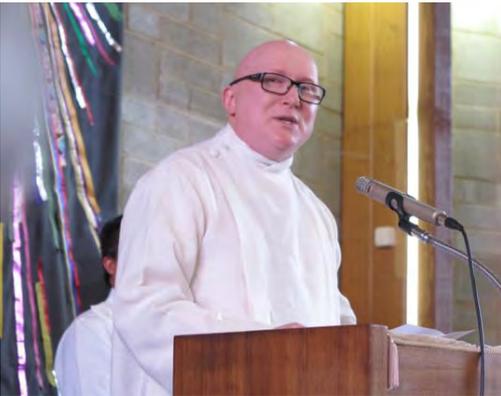
We sang Happy Birthday to Peter Middleton on **12th June** for his 70th birthday. Barry told us, during worship, that Peter has worshipped at the church since he was 7 years old.



## Ordination

**Sunday 19th June** was a memorable day for a very memorable person. Ian David's Ordination was held at Nunawading Uniting Church. Tawk Kap was also ordained at this service. It was wonderful to be there and see Ian's beaming face and the joy that he

clearly felt at this very significant time in his life. In his response Ian spoke about what it means to be religious and spiritual and the way in the Uniting Church symbol brings these two things together. Most importantly he spoke about his sense of call. You can listen to his response via our sermons [page](#)



Ian's induction as minister of the St. John's UC congregation, 86 Chapel St., Cowes, will be held on **Sunday 10th July**, 2:30 pm.

Saide Cameron

## > Communication News

### Website

Work on the redevelopment of our website is continuing. Shawn and Saide reviewed the work a group of us had done earlier in the year which included investigating all of the pages on our current website and sorting them into categories. We have now developed a series of key questions that we think visitors to the website might want answered and condensed them to a single word (or two): worship, get involved, mission/reaching out, spaces, resources, contacts. Our next task is to look at all the existing information and work out what we want to keep and where it belongs. It's a fascinating and time consuming task. The plan was to have the new website up and running by the end of November - only time will tell if that is achievable.



### Photo permissions

One of the requirements for being a Safe Church is to ensure that our personal information is protected. One aspect of this is to ensure that we have permission to use any photos taken of people during worship or church related events. It's time to do an update/audit on our stored permissions. If you know you haven't filled out a permission form you can access one [here](#) or email [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com) to receive a copy or just ask for one next time you are at worship.

Saide Cameron

## > Worship Calendar

### Baptism

We are looking forward to celebrating the baptism of two children on **10th July**.

### Pageant Brainstorming

The worship committee will host the annual meeting that gets our creative juices in action for the Christmas Eve Pageant.

Join us at the Manse on **Sunday 17th July**, 2-4pm. We'll talk about the shape and focus for this year's pageant, work out a process to get everything started and start making lists of who wants to be involved.

Contact Saide, 0407 096 743 for more information or to let us know that you'll be coming along to share your creative ideas.

### Reflective Service

On **31st July** there will be a shorter reflective service at 9:30am.

Please note that morning tea will not be served following this service.

### Combined Service

We will worship with the Brunswick Indonesian UC congregation at 5pm on **31st July**. Worship is followed by a delicious shared meal.

If you would like to join a choir for a musical item please let Natalie know, 0457 054 807.

### Refugee Sunday

We will join with other congregations to celebrate the contributions of refugees during worship on **28th August**. After the service we will share a Refugee Meal, hosted by the JAM committee

### Season of Creation

During worship in **September** we will explore our stewardship of and participation in the beautiful and often heartbreaking dance of Creation.

### Welcoming

An opportunity to participate in a Welcoming Ceremony will be offered on **11th September**. More details to come.

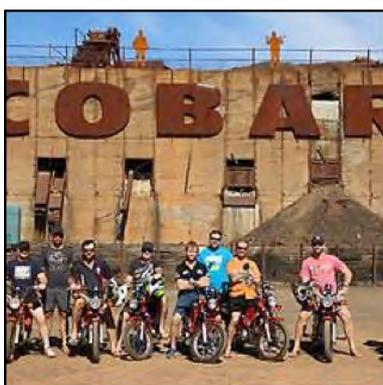
## > Special Events

### Posties to the Corner Fundraising Ride

There is a fundraising event happening in **July-August**, to support Miracle Babies Foundation, which offers care and support to Premature and sick newborn babies, their families and the hospitals that care for them.

It all started when a group of men got talking together, in a Workshop in Cobar NSW...

Out of a workshop of 14 Blokes, 7 of us are Parents to Pre-Mature Babies. One of these special gifts was born at an incredible 28 weeks.



Miracle Babies Foundation is very near to our hearts. So with this in mind, the lads from the workshop are riding to Cameron's Corner and back on Postie Bikes. 1400 kms of Dirt Roads. It should be a laugh at the very least. If you can support us by supporting Miracle Babies, it will be greatly received.

I will be travelling along with the group of riders as a support vehicle, carrying water, swags, supplies etc. If you would like to find out more information about Miracle Babies Foundation or the Posties to the Corner Ride, or make a donation, please click on the links below.

Many thanks, Wayne Matthews.

<https://www.facebook.com/postiestothecorner/>

<https://give.everydayhero.com/au/posties-to-the-corner#/>

### Meditation Day

An invitation to meditate ...

Everyone is welcome to attend a day of exploring and experiencing Meditation on **Saturday 20th August** from 9:30am-2:30pm.

Clare Boyd-Macrae who is an experienced meditator and writer on spiritual matters will speak on her life as a meditator and offer reflections on meditation.

The day will include times for meditation, time with Clare, question time & lunch.

Save the date. Registration will be open soon.

For more information contact Richard Arnold, 0407 796 429.



## > 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](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 alternating on **Friday and Sunday evenings**, 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** in the Youth Hall.

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.

### 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. There is no membership fee. 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](mailto:helen.rowe@rocketmail.com)

### Mulling

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 5th July**, 7pm at Steph's place, 4 Wyal St. West Brunswick. Tim Budge will speak about the issues in the Israel-Palestine region. Bring something to share for a pot luck dinner.

*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

**7.30 – 9 pm, Wednesday 27th July**

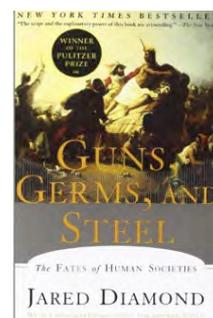
Olive Way, Brunswick UC

We have set ourselves a challenge for July... we will tackle Jared Diamond's Pulitzer Prize winning *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The fates of human societies*.

For more information speak to

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)



### Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Have you been to Food Co-op yet?

Opening Dates: **16th July, 20th August**

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 Manakish, 161 Sydney Rd. 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

Dear friends,

This month Church Council has been occupied partly with following a process to fill the ministry position that we have recently advertised. This role has been envisioned as a 'Mission Coordinator' position, which would collaborate with the ministry team and other leadership bodies in the congregation to develop a new Strategic Plan. We hope that the successful candidate will help to lead the congregation in a new period of discernment about how our mission programs can continue to be deepened and directed to the needs of our community. We have received a number of wonderful applicants and we will soon be able to make an announcement. We are grateful for the support we have received from the congregation as we develop this vision together.

We have also had the privilege of formally endorsing the candidatures for ministry of Fiona Bottcher and Simone Aleisch, thus confirming the status of our congregation as a breeding ground for ecclesiastical talent. We are thrilled that these brilliant women are moving forward to the next stage in this journey. We enjoyed compiling references that detailed their outstanding talents and fitness for the role that they will be training to perform. We wish them every blessing as they go!

We are aiming to make sure that our existing ministry team has the support they need, and have acted to provide active supervision for Anika in her youth and student house ministry.

BUC has maintained its presence in recent justice demonstrations, with groups carrying our banner in rallies for asylum seekers and action on climate change.

In the financial realm (I am told) we have acted to create an asset register and filing system for HR procedures. By implementing modernisations such as this we are joining the wider Uniting Church in its leisurely, triumphant march into the 20th Century.

Our recent fundraising event was a smashing success and we are grateful to all those who attended and contributed money and auction items.

Please note that we have nominated Ann Soo as the temporary replacement Culture Safety Contact Person for the period of 22/7/16 – 31/8/16 while Helen is away.

I trust that you are keeping the chill of the season at bay by the thawing warmth of divine love.

**Daniel 'Big Sec' Broadstock.**

### Property Committee

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

- The down light controllers have been modified to operate on one panel, the other is faulty and needs to be replaced.
- Submitted the insurance claim for the stolen items (from two break-ins), microphone and laptop replacements have already been purchased.
- Wedges have been purchased to hold the front door open after the two foot latches have been broken.
- Manse kitchen extractor fan has been replaced.
- Wheel on the BBQ trolley has been replaced.
- Purchased a cyclonic vacuum cleaner for the youth hall.
- Replace the hot water unit in Unit 2 of the student house.

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

- Commencement of the roof works, tentatively 11th July '16, the roof works are estimated to take 8 weeks.
- Organise to have the faulty down light dimmers repaired/replaced as required.
- Implement the proposal to make the church more secure.
- Youth Hall works to continue, painting, flashing etc.
- Manse cracks filled and painted.
- Remeasure the moisture in the soil under the church.
- Gutter on the youth hall to be replaced due to corrosion.
- Investigate the professional cleaning of the hall kitchen multiple times per year to maintain them in a clean state.
- Continue investigating childproof locking arrangements for the gates on the youth hall front yard, self-closing arrangements.
- Investigate lighting arrangements for the tower room to complement the displays.

**Ray Cameron**

## Finance Committee

Both the Victorian State and Federal governments issued their Budgets in early May for the year ended June 2017. UCA Funds hosted a breakfast for investors such as BUC, and other not-for-profits to discuss the implications of these budgets on the NFP sector.

Their keynote speaker was CommBank Economist Bruno Bello, whose fascinating slides were made available.

If you would like a full copy of the pdf file, please contact [lindawannan@gmail.com](mailto:lindawannan@gmail.com)

Two items of particular interest to BUC Finance relate to

- the wealth of Australians and
- interest rates, as BUC has investments (and unlike many of us, no debt or mortgages!).

Specifically, we've a highly-skewed distribution of wealth in Australia.

A couple of years ago, in 2013, the average net wealth of the 22 plus million people in Australia was almost \$400,000. This indicates a number with significantly high wealth, as many have significantly less than this. Hence the 'skew'.

With ageing Baby-Boomers, and their parents, it was suggested that there are bequest opportunities for NFPs such as BUC.

Graph source: page 15 of UCA Funds  
Not-For-Profit Budget Breakfast 17 May 2016

Also, we are in a world of declining interest rates, with implications to BUC investments.

The red line in the graph shows Australian interest rates over 80 years (specifically, on 10-year-bonds). Other coloured lines are other countries.

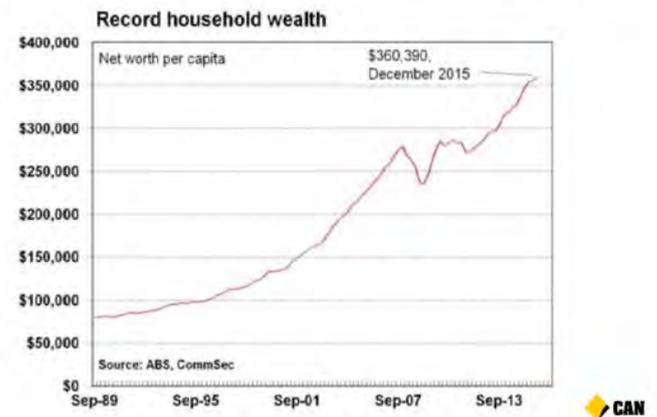
It indicates we are likely to experience continued low interest rates. These determine the income we get from the funds we have with UCA Funds, so we can expect to have lower than previous interest income from our investments.

Interest rates also affect rents, so we may not have the growth in rental incomes (from the MCM property and residential rentals) of previous years.

Graph source: page 19 of UCA Funds  
Not-For-Profit Budget Breakfast 17 May 2016.

These and other economic factors may contribute to our mission and strategic thinking over the coming years.

Budget 16/17 – Impact on NFP Sector – Will Households Be Stronger?



Budget 16/17 – Impact on NFP Sector – The World of Lower Returns?



Linda Wannan

## Worship Committee

Saide opened our June meeting with a brief reflection on Galatians, affirming that we are 'all one in Christ'. We prayed a Michael Leunig prayer of confession.

As always we reflected on worship since our previous meeting and noted in particular the connection between the two services on 22nd May (at home and at camp) made possible by the shared theme of 'Love - no strings attached'. Particularly memorable was Ian David tying Andy Calder up in string demonstrate 'how much he is loved' asking 'what is love, how do we make connections, how are we connected?'



We also discussed the **lighting for the Tower Room displays** and expressed our appreciation for the work of the Property Committee in helping to get this organised. David Stephens will be working with the committee to get the most effective result.

**Name plates** for the painting, print and photograph in our Gathering Space are almost ready to go up and we are continuing to work on our **collection of stories** of objects of significance.

Saide Cameron and Steph Gesling accepted an invitation to write the liturgies for the **Christmas Bowl Worship resources**. There are 19 Christian denominations that may use the Worship Resources. Almost 2,000 churches every year take part in the Christmas Bowl appeal. It has been quite a privilege to contribute in this way. The liturgies we have written invite people to explore week by week how and what we are called to by God.

We are hosting a **Christmas Eve Pageant Brainstorming** event on **Sunday 17th July**. We look forward to welcoming story writers, musicians, actors, organisers - basically anyone who wants to contribute to the creation and deliver of this year's pageant. We are even looking into building or buying our own rostra (staging) to provide us with more options for how we use the space.

In co-operation with Brunswick Indonesian congregation the allocation of storage space has been reorganised so that the **Deaconess store room** is now home to resources for the BUC congregation. Extra measures are being put in place by the Property Committee to provide secure storage for our more valuable audio-visual property.

**29/5** – Pentecost 2: **Luke 7:1-10; Galatians 1:1-12** We worshipped with the Brunswick Indonesian congregation on this 5th Sunday. Members of both congregations shared leadership of the prayers and Bible reading. We particularly enjoyed the blessing sung by members of the BIUC congregation.



Ian and Julie explored insiders and outsider through the Gospel stories of the Good Samaritan and the Roman Centurion. They reminded us of the importance of loving your neighbour and faith. Julie reminded us that it was Reconciliation Sunday. We prayed the Dhurga version of the Lord's Prayer, *see page 21*.



To begin his sermon Ian asked 'What does it look like when law is used as a barrier to exclude people?' Responding to the question he made reference to civil rights movie Selma and voting rights for indigenous Australians. Ian said that *'Paul's letter to the Galatians is an impassioned letter against the use of religious law to decide who was included and who was excluded from the early Jesus movement, the early Christian church.'* He commented that Paul uses the 'p-word' – *it's a perversion of our Gospel to use law to exclude.* He went on to discuss the different ways in which people face exclusion from the church today and how this letter would be heard as *'startlingly relevant because in these areas the modern Christian Church is mired in legalism affirming that Paul's declaration in Galatians 3 'for all of you are one in Jesus Christ ... is the basis of what should be Christianity's radical inclusiveness'*. He commented on Paul's cultural underwear and how he can imagine Paul *banging his head against a heavenly brick wall as he sees Christians turning his own words into the kind of law that he railed against.* Ian said that one word captures the gospel that the Galatians have received and that we like them

risk perverting and 'that word is grace'. He said *'It is this grace, God's love freely poured out for the world which washes away the divisions people use to separate one from another – race, class, gender, sexuality. We don't determine who is in and who is out of God's favour, who is included and excluded from the community of God's people. God determines this and does so by loving us with a reconciling fervour.* To explore what law looks like when grace gets to work Ian turned our attention to the historic apology offered by Premier Daniel Andrews to the men who were convicted for the crime of homosexuality. He asked who is embodying grace and concluded that *'Grace is revealed to us in those once counted as perverted outsiders. This week our State Parliament recognized and repented legalism gone wrong. I pray that the whole church of Jesus Christ might similarly repent the vestiges of its legalism and be a beacon of renewing grace and reconciling love just as we are made to be. In the name of Christ the Child of Grace. Amen.*



**5/6 – Pentecost 3: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146** Members of the worship committee (Saide Cameron, Natalie Sims, Olivia Potter and Helen Burnham) planned, prepared and led the service taking inspiration from worship resources prepared for World Environment Day. We invited the children to think about how we care for the earth and to remember that even the small things that we do make a difference. Instead of a sermon we invited the congregation to engage with a series of stations through which we could offer our confessions for the ways in which our care for the earth had fallen short of our call to stewardship, thanksgiving for the wonders of creation, intercession praying for the world, the church and the community and response celebrating both what we already do in our care for creation and what we will commit to doing. You can read the prayers offered [here](#)



Later in the service Janet Reus-Smit celebrated Holy Communion. The worship committee has begun to plan more services as a team and we are enjoying doing so.

**12/6 – Pentecost 4: Luke 7:36-8:3, Galatians 2:15-21** We welcomed Peter Beale as our preacher. Peter talked about hospitality



with the children, showing them symbols of the gospel story: golden cloth for the woman's hair, salty water for her tears, perfumed water for the oil with which she washed Jesus' feet.

Peter began his sermon by putting the reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians into context. He explained that James, Jesus' brother who was in charge in Jerusalem, wrote that *'faith without works is useless'*. This he said contrasts with Paul who was saying *'it's not about the law, obedience to the law, it's about faith.'* Peter stated that Paul was arguing against the requirement that Gentile Christians fulfil the requirements of the law saying that *'we are all sinners, we are all accepted by God, now matter who we are'*. Peter spoke about the differing understandings of hospitality in the light of this conflict. He reminded us of the symbolism of the exclusion of women and foreigners from the centre of the temple and that prominent women in the early church were demonised. In particular he focussed on how the image of Mary Magdalene was tarnished. He made reference to Rev. Dr. Sally Douglas' Synod Bible Studies in which she explored the way in which the early church referred to Jesus as the Wisdom of God and how this image was diminished to make way for the more masculine Son of God for the sake of the acceptability of the gospel in those times. Peter commented that this was therefore not the gospel of empowerment and acceptance proclaimed by Jesus and Paul. He concluded *'in the beautiful moment in Luke that we have read today of*



*compassionate acceptance of all women, even sinners, of forgiveness and words of release, these show the true gospel of Jesus. A gospel which embraces all people and all of creation. ... It's not your works, not your confession and not your obedience to the law that matters, says Jesus or Paul. It's your faith that has saved you. Go in peace. Amen*

**19/6 – Pentecost 5: Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39** Natalie invited the children to look at a Sunday Morning Program photo which showed some people being very important and others who were not. She explained that Paul’s letter to the Galatians encourages us to see everyone as equal because we are all special to God. We enjoyed singing ‘We are one in the Spirit’.



We welcomed Graeme Garrett as our preacher. Graeme began his sermon saying ‘*As he stepped out on land a man of the city who had demons met him*’. He commented that ‘*This is one storm after another*’ and reminded us of the preceding story in which Jesus calms the storm to highlight the human storm that Jesus encounters in this man. Graeme retold the story emphasizing the impact of the demons entering the herd of pigs on the townspeople. He then wondered and shared what our politicians, Malcolm, Bill and Richard, might make of the story exploring the various issues and players in our economy and the impact of decisions being made on the more than human world, our ecology. He summed up this part of his sermon saying ‘*so this story has political implications. You can’t cast our demons without disturbing pigs. And it has ecological significance. Rampages in town send pigs over the cliff. Well you might say that’s the politics. There are these dimensions but what about the personal dimension to it?*’



Graeme then turned out attention to Jesus and the topic of demons. He commented on the difficulty that we ‘moderns’ have with demons and that we ‘*tend to think of this man as mentally disturbed ... and yet this New Testament story is saying something more I think than that Jesus heals the man of his mental instability*’. Graeme reminded us that the demons recognise Jesus as ‘*the Son of the Most High God*’ when his disciples had not yet come to understand this. He said ‘*It’s not just mental sickness that Jesus meets in this man, it’s the forces of evil, the powers in the world that oppose and disorder God’s Kingdom and they are legion, many the story says*’. Graeme went on to name some of these demons in response to what we know of God, for example if ‘*God is truth ... then one of the demons would be called lie*’. In concluding Graeme invited us to consider how this story asks us to confront our own demons and prayed ‘*May God grant to us wisdom to know how best to act in a world of such competing interests and may God give us courage to examine our own hearts in light of God’s truth and justice and compassion as they meet us in Jesus Christ*’.

**126/6 – Pentecost 6: Galatians 5:1,13-25, Luke 9:51-62** Worship was shaped by the fruits of the Spirit with a song for each of the fruits through the service. Ian asked the children ‘What’s your favourite fruit?’.



He invited the children to help him fill up the bowl

with the fruits of the Spirit: joy-banana, love-apple, peace-orange, patience-avocado, kindness-mandarin, generosity-pineapple, gentleness (humility)-kiwifruit, self control-lemon, faithfulness-grapes explaining what each of the fruits mean for our lives.

The focus of Ian’s sermon was a reflection on the gospel reading and in particular Jesus’ words about ‘leaving your family’. Ian shared two stories about leaving home and asked us about our own experiences of leaving and farewelling and then introduced us to the science fiction movie *Interstellar* in which Coop must leave his home in order to find a new home for the people of Earth. Ian commented on the brutality of Jesus’ ‘no’ in response to prospective disciples wanting to say their farewells and reminded us that we are all similarly called as Jesus’ disciples. He said that one of the main themes of the movie is the extent to which humans are capable of acting for the good of all humanity indicating that this is ‘*a critical questions in this time of climate change which this movie is reflecting on.*’ He wondered ‘*Could our family bonds even hold us back from the action that might be necessary to renew creation?*’ Ian explored the critical importance of family ties in the ancient world to emphasize the impact of Jesus’ call. He said that ‘*the movie Interstellar imagines what the gospel also says – that there is no hope for the world if we are not able to love beyond the bonds of our immediate family. ... Family first is an unbiblical distortion of the gospel unless family is taken to mean the family of all creation.*’ We watched one final scene from the movie in which Coop returns home 90 years later in Earth time but barely aged in his body to a family that he does not know but which he has, by the act of leaving, saved. Ian concluded his sermon praying for families ‘*... But most of all I pray for the new family called into being by Jesus Christ. The family of the new creation coming into being in the eternal love of God who gave her only Son for the world. We are that family in the name of Christ, Amen.*’



Saide Cameron

## > Preaching Plan

|         |                                       |           |   |              |   |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|--------------|---|
| July 3  | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Holy Communion</b> | July 31   | Ian Ferguson, <b>9:30 am</b><br><b>Reflective Service</b>     | August 21    | Ian Ferguson                                  |
| July 10 | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Baptisms</b>       | July 31   | <i>to be advised</i> , <b>5:00 pm</b><br><b>Combined BIUC</b> | August 28    | <i>to be advised</i>                          |
| July 17 | Ian Ferguson                          | August 7  | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Holy Communion</b>                         | September 4  | <i>to be advised</i><br><b>Holy Communion</b> |
| July 24 | Ian Ferguson                          | August 14 | Ian Ferguson  | September 11 | Ian Ferguson<br><b>Welcoming Ceremony</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 |
|------|---------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| 3/7  | Pent 7  | 2 Kgs 5:1-14  | Ps 30            | Gal 6:(1-6), 7-16  | Lk 10:1-11, 16-20 | G |
| 10/7 | Pent 8  | Am 7:7-17     | Ps 82            | Col 1:1-14         | Lk 10:25-37       | G |
| 17/7 | Pent 9  | Am 8:1-12     | Ps 52            | Col 1:15-28        | Lk 10:38-42       | G |
| 24/7 | Pent 10 | Hos 1:2-10    | Ps 85            | Col 2:6-15 (16-19) | Lk 11:1-13        | G |
| 31/7 | Pent 11 | Hos 11:1-11   | Ps 107:1-9, 43   | Col 3:1-11         | Lk 12:13-21       | G |
| 7/8  | Pent 12 | Is 1:1, 10-20 | Ps 50:1-8, 22-23 | Heb 11:1-3, 8-16   | Lk 12:32-40       | G |
| 14/8 | Pent 13 | Is 5:1-7      | Ps 80:1-2, 8-19  | Heb 11:29-12:2     | Lk 12:49-56       | G |
| 21/8 | Pent 14 | Jer 1:4-10    | Ps 71:1-6        | Heb 12:18-29       | Lk 13:10-17       | G |
| 28/8 | Pent 15 | Jer 2:4-13    | Ps 81:1, 10-16   | Heb 13:1-8, 15-16  | Lk 14:1, 7-14     | G |

## > The Lord's Prayer

### What we usually pray ...

Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen

### Dhurga version ...

Our Father in Heaven, your name is holy.  
Father, you come to our land.  
We will hear your dream in our land,  
The dream they hear in Heaven.  
Please give to us our food today.  
We will let go other's sins,  
When they do them to us.  
Father, don't let us go down  
the track to sin.  
Protect us from the Evil One.  
You hold the land, you hold the power,  
You hold the light.  
Today and tomorrow and tomorrow. Amen.

## July 2016 Diary

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                                      | Friday              | Saturday  |
|--|----------|---|---|---|---------------------|---|
| <b>Pentecost 7</b> July 3<br>9:30 – Ian Ferguson <b>HC, AA</b><br><br>4:00 – Sacred Harp<br>5:00 – Indonesian W’p<br>6:00 – Table Church               | 4        | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8                   | 9   |
|  |          | 9:30 – Meditation<br>10:00 – Olive Way<br><br>7:00 – Mulling        | 8:00 – Meditation<br>10:00 – Olive Way<br>12:00 – Community Dinner<br><br>5:30 – Meditation<br>6:30 – JAM Committee                           | 10:00 – Olive Way                             | 6:30 – Table Church |   |
| <b>Pentecost 8</b> 10<br>9:30 – Ian Ferguson<br><b>Baptism</b><br><br>5:00 – Indonesian W’p  | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15                  | 16  |
|  |          | 9:30 – Meditation<br>10:00 – Olive Way<br><br>7:30 – Church Council | 8:00 – Meditation<br>10:00 – Olive Way<br>12:00 – Community Dinner<br><br>5:30 – Meditation   | 10:00 – Olive Way<br><br>7:30 – Worship C’tee | 7:30 – YUCY         | 10:00 – Food Co-op                                    |
| <b>Pentecost 9</b> 17<br>9:30 – Ian Ferguson<br><b>Café Style Morning Tea</b><br><br>5:00 – Indonesian W’p<br>6:00 – Table Church                      | 18       | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22                  | 23  |
|  |          | 9:30 – Meditation<br>10:00 – Olive Way                              | 8:00 – Meditation<br>10:00 – Olive Way<br>12:00 – Community Dinner<br><br>5:30 – Meditation   | 10:00 – Olive Way                             | 6:30 – Table Church |   |
| <b>Pentecost 10</b> 24<br>9:30 – Ian Ferguson<br><br>5:00 – Indonesian W’p   | 25       | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29                  | 30  |
|  |          | 9:30 – Meditation<br>10:00 – Olive Way<br><br>7:30 – Property C’tee | 8:00 – Meditation<br>10:00 – Olive Way<br>12:00 – Community Dinner<br><br>5:30 – Meditation<br>7:30 – Book Club<br>7:30 – Pastoral Care C’tee | 10:00 – Olive Way                             | 7:30 – YUCY         |   |
| <b>Pentecost 11</b> 31<br>9:30 – Ian Ferguson<br><b>Reflective service</b><br><br>5:00 – Indonesian W’p<br><b>Combined BIUC</b><br>6:00 – Table Church | August 1 | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5                   | 6   |
|  |          | 9:30 – Meditation<br>10:00 – Olive Way                              | 8:00 – Meditation<br>10:00 – Olive Way<br>12:00 – Community Dinner<br><br>5:30 – Meditation   | 10:00 – Olive Way                             |                     | 10:00 – <b>BBQ &amp; Busking</b><br><br>2:30 – Coffee |