

THE OLIVE BRANCH

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

> Meditation

Imagination

The danger of imagination was that it filled up the void when what we need is to learn how to live in the presence of the void.
Simone Weil

Over the month of May the leaders of the Sunday Morning Programme, and any other interested members of the Brunswick Uniting Church congregation, are going to enter a time to more fully explore some creative options for preparing sessions with the young people of our community. Creativity is a curious thing. Like a muse, she is there at unexpected moments. At other times, she can be hard to find.

One of my favourite University memories is one in which my friend Michael and I were driving back from a University Christian retreat. As we drove down the Mountain Highway, we were listening to a cassette tape recording of the 1974 cast album of the musical *Godspell*. The thing is that Michael is tone deaf. There were notes coming out of his mouth that have yet to be pitched, let alone notated!! And we were both in some kind of musical ecstasy! Michael knew he "couldn't sing" (if there is such a thing), but it didn't matter. Our worship in the car that day was totally transforming, and certainly was more pure than some of the worship sessions we had just participated on the group camp.

Being told by somebody that we are 'not creative'; or somewhere when we decided that our contribution to the arts was not worth anything, is a far more common experience than you might imagine. I've always thought that if you were able to get yourself dressed and fed, that displays enough creativity for anything we are asked to or might be interested to do! That inner voice of the critic, that seeks to destroy our explorations even before we try, needs to be met with some simple guidelines. Like the word, "Later." I can hear my inner critic trying to circumvent my attempt: but to recognize it and temper its demand with a simple, "Later" can be the very thing that enables the exploration to continue and a discovery to be made.

The Bible is full of powerful and rich stories. Many of Jesus' parables are not explained. They are simply told and the meanings and insights we discover as we continue to grow and learn in life. We can trust in the power of these timeless stories and explore their wisdom without reducing them to a simple moral. To be immersed into a life of Biblical stories enriches how we live, and can help us sense the movement of God in our own lives, through our own life's story.

We describe God as a creator. And we are all in our own way creative. This month we are going to invite time and space to feeding and nurturing our creativity. Rather than pre-deciding what is and isn't creative, we're going to suspend the critic's self-judgment, and explore and wonder and try and play. We're going to enter into the void! And in the process we will find!! We might even be surprised by what we discover! The creator God is often at work when we are willing to take a risk, have a go, and are prepared to try once again!

Ian David



> Culture of Safety

On **Sunday 17th April**, the Moderator, Dan Wootton joined us for worship to present our congregation with a Safe Church Recognition Program Certificate. Inviting Dan and representatives of different parts of the congregation where the work has been done, Ian said 'Our congregation and the Uniting Church more widely is standing up for the Culture of Safety in the Church'. During his sermon Ian proclaimed 'Today in our service we focus on one particular stand we are called to take as the Uniting Church, the whole church, in light of the Royal Commission into institutionalised child abuse and all that we already knew before it. Jesus calls us saying stand up, stand up against abuse in all its forms. Stand up to power used corruptly, destructively. Stand up for justice and healing. Stand with the vulnerable, the abused. Stand up as a community of compassion and hope. Stand up in love for one another and our neighbours. Stand up into the community of the new creation. Stand up as I stood up says Jesus to his church.'



Dan Wootton, Shawn Whelan, Anita Brown-Major, Julie Perrin, Helen Rowe, Leanne Salau
Moderator, Church Council Chair, CY&YA rep., C&H Co-ordinator, Safe Church Contact, Olive Way rep.

Our congregation began this journey in 2013 when the Church Council appointed Helen Rowe to review existing Safe Church Policies. In 2014 Helen was appointed as our Safe Church Contact person and project leader for implementation of UCA Safe Church policies and documentation. She was ably assisted in this task by Tim Winkler, our then Children, Youth & Young Adult Elder and Julie Perrin, CY&YA Co-ordinator. Together they worked on policy development, procedures for risk management plans, Sunday Morning program enrolment and attendance, volunteer screening and monitoring the currency of WWC checks, facilitated Safe Church training and developed a Code of Conduct for volunteers across all programs. 2015 was a year of consolidation of processes and procedures for Children & Youth programs in particular. Recognizing that our duty of care extends to all vulnerable people we strategically began to refer to this work as developing a Culture of Safety. Safe Church training was and continues to be provided for church leaders, volunteers in Children & Youth Programs and our Olive Way Outreach program and congregation members involved in a range of pastoral care related activities.

Our documented evidence was submitted for consideration early in 2016 and we are delighted to be the second congregation in the Synod to receive the Certificate of Recognition. In his presentation Dan commented on the significance of the event and said '*Central tenets of Christian discipleship are love of God and love of neighbour. The way to express that love is to ensure that all people feel cared for and safe within the Christian community, especially those who are vulnerable.*' He commended the Church Council for taking the initiative to ensure that safeguards have been put in place for prevention of abuse. He said that '*displaying the certificate sends a message to children, parents and the community that this is a safe church to worship and enjoy each other's company.*'

Ian concluded the presentation by thanking Helen, Tim and Julie for their work and acknowledged Fiona MacDowall who has taken on the role of Sunday Morning Program secretary to assist with administration of rolls and enrolments. He encouraged us to '*stand up into the policies in order to bring about a Culture of Safety here*', reminding us that '*it's about how we love one another, that's what this is all about*'. We shared the traditional baptismal commitment in response and participated in a Psalm 23 prayer walk around the church.

You can view the certificate [here](#) and listen to the whole presentation [here](#). The certificate is also now accessible via our website home page and displayed in the Gathering Space.



He leads me beside still waters

Saide Cameron

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> Worship Calendar

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.

Ecumenical Pentecost

We join with our ecumenical neighbours for worship on **Pentecost Sunday, 25th May**, 5pm at the Salvation Army centre, 256 Albert St. Brunswick. A light supper is served after the service.

The theme of the service will be 'Called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord' and is based on the **Week of the Prayer for Christian Unity** resources which have been prepared by Christian groups in Latvia.

NB - the prayer resources will be emailed daily from 8th-15th May.

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 ...



Worship at Camp

Worship will be based on the theme 'Love no Strings attached' building on the excitement generated at the Sydney Rd. Street Party. We plan worship together at camp. Be excited. The worship committee already is.



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.

June

On **Sunday 3rd June** our Ministry Team will be participating in the meeting of Synod. (See Special Events p12).

Ian will also be away for the following two weeks.

Watch out for information about visiting preachers for these first three Sundays in June and other arrangements, coming soon.

> Sharing our Faith

Welcoming Ceremony

During worship on **Sunday 10th April** we offered a formal welcome to Sarah Curnow, Anthony Hind, Emily Evans, Kimberly Fraser and Mitchell Valentine.

Ian explained our practice of offering this welcome in recognition of the fluid nature of membership these days.

Here are their stories ...



Sarah - I've been part of this congregation for over a year now but I haven't had a chance to be part of this Welcoming Ceremony as yet so it's really great to be part of it today. I came from a very different congregation and a very different denomination background and it's really freeing and exciting to be part of this congregation. I've really valued the diversity that is here and the values that are held here so thank you for the year that I've had and thank you for welcoming me.



Anthony - I've come from Fitzroy North Community Church where I was until my separation so I've come here and I enjoy being here because I love the liturgy. I really enjoy the music. It's socially progressive, gay friendly and people have made me feel so welcome so thank you.



Emily - During the week Ian gave us this list of questions. It sounded simple but one of them was 'Where have you come from?' I struggled to answer this. I used to live in East Timor for two & 1/2 years and I was constantly asked this question but for me where I come from is where I feel at home and

where my self is. So at the moment where I come from is in Victoria St. in Brunswick West but previously I was a member at Carlton Uniting Church where my father is the minister but I thought it was time to leave Carlton and leave being a minister's kid, something you struggle with throughout your entire life so having just returned from overseas I was looking for a loving, welcoming community and that's what I've found here.



Kimberly - I've been coming here for about seven months. Like Emily the question "Where are you from?" is almost impossible for me to answer but to give you some measure of my background before coming to Melbourne I was living in Nepal for two years. In the past ten years I've lived

and worked in seven different countries across five continents. Growing up I went to twelve different schools as far reaching as

Sudan and Somalia and many places in between so I can't really tell you where I came from but as you can imagine going to a new place and building a community can be quite a struggle but this time around it's been quite easy thanks to you all for being so welcoming. That's why I'm here.

Mitchell - There seems to be something of a theme where no-one quite knows where they're coming from. I've lived in Australia and travelled a lot. Interestingly this is the first church I've ever been in where English is the main language. I've just moved from Darwin and everyone is so welcoming and so I've stayed.



In response to this sharing Ian said 'In his letter to the Romans Paul writes 'Welcome one another therefore just as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God'. So let's welcome these people to the glory of God.'

Ian then acknowledged that there were quite a few other people who wanted to participate who couldn't and there will be another opportunity later in the year.

He invited us to respond to the questions that shape this welcome:

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?" I do.

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?" We do.

We concluded by blessing one another singing 'May God's Sheltering Wings.

Almost in anticipation of this Welcoming Ceremony Jenne Perslstein shared her story in notices during worship on **Sunday 3rd April**.



Jenne began by acknowledging the Wurundjeri land and elders and commented on the welcome she had received at BUC. Jenne told us that she is an Interfaith Minister and asked for prayers for the First Australian/ NZ Interfaith Ministers Retreat to be held near Launceston that she was to

attend from 8th April till 12th April. After a couple of weeks in between Jenne has departed to go to New York to speak at a conference (Tarot and Psychology) on 26th April and thence to Mexico, Cuba and Caribbean returning 21st June.

The next Welcoming Ceremony will be offered most likely in September.

Saide Cameron

> Sharing our Faith

How many sermons start with the unaccompanied singing of the first two lines of a Prince song made famous by Sinead O'Connor?

It's been seven hours and 15 days
Since you took your love away...

And well sung too, pitch perfect (at least to my amateur ear). More lines of the song, interspersed throughout the sermon, between stories of broken friendship and the death of a dear friend to AIDS. All about love, about hurt and loss but mostly about love.

Ian David led a beautiful ANZAC weekend service, beginning with the children's talk for just four young children (and about 50 young at heart) – all enraptured by his exploration of the rules we live by. Reminding us that we just need to remember one rule really: To love one another.

But the Bible story Ian retold through the sermon was of Peter's vision of a sheet coming down from heaven with images of all sorts of 'unclean' animals. With the message – get up Peter, Kill and Eat! This was as he was questioning whether



he should accept an invitation to visit a Gentile community who wanted to learn about Jesus. No rules, no restrictions, no limitations - just love.

It was a sermon about hope and healing, the power of dreams to speak to us and reach out to each other. Helping us to reflect on how simple, and yet how tough, it can be to choose to love one another.

Just that morning I had finished reading Magda Szubanski's memoir – *Reckoning*. Which is all about dealing with loss, exclusion, difference, demons of the past, dreams that disturb – but also heal. It too, was all about the need for acceptance and love. I was tempted to jump up in the announcements and say: After that sermon – *we must all read Magda's book!* I didn't then but now – hey! We must all read her book! – and go back and listen to Ian David's sermon. So we can understand each other better, find healing and hope and help each other to love one another – no matter who we are or what we may have done in the past.

Love one another!

Simple but sometimes incredibly difficult.

Meredith Budge

> Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

SMP Artist in Residence – Ian David

Sometimes you meet someone whose gifts make you smile, laugh and lift your spirit. Welcome back Ian David, we are so glad you are here.

When Ian David left us after being our student minister in 2014, children cried people said, "We wish we could bottle him." Children cried at his farewell.

So here you have your chance for Essence of Ian David.

Sunday 1st May, Youth Hall, 12 – 2.30pm
Imagination Play and the Biblical Text.

CYYA want to give SMP leaders, assistants, youth leaders and anyone else who wants to come the chance to play some of the impro games that spark imagination.

We are planning to create a resource from this – this is not instead of the workshop, it is to bed down the repertoire of games. It will all make sense if you've experienced them first.



All Age Worship

We have a lovely practice of this, the congregation wants to welcome children and young people to fully participate in worship. We need your help. The plan is to free Julie and SMP leaders to support the presence of children and young people leading parts of the liturgy. So we need more folk to help with devising and setting up activities in the Gathering Space. Ideally we would like to invite YA's and older adults who do not typically help with SMP to come on board here.



Can you help in one of three ways?

1. Be an assistant preparing and setting up materials and helping on the day
2. Offer to plan and organize a simple making activity for the children in AAW
3. Develop an artmaking project that could go across a series of AAWs

The Little Chairs Project

Ann Soo is overseeing this delightful project with help from other volunteers and the children in AAW. The grungy orange and brown plastic children's chairs are being decorated with decoupage – lots of collage pictures and shiny glue. The themes so far are – bicycle riding, the 23rd Psalm and yet to come is a musical chair, a Noah's ark chair and a Lord's Prayer chair!

Further suggestions for themes are welcome . Thanks to Helen Rowe for de-rusting and painting the chair legs and the YUCY group for helping paint the base coats!



Student House

WHAT A MONTH!!! What can I say? Everyone is getting DEEP into the old university worm hole that is the second half of semester, but we still have had time for some serious developments and lots of community-working goodness!

After a solemn farewell to Marli from the SH community (but not BUC, yay we still get to see you!) we welcomed wonderful Tabitha to Orange House last week - she's rad, please make her feel comfy in our Brunswick family when you meet her (not that I need to ask).

The past month has also been a big month for the Student House crew in the BUC community! Abi and David were legendary in helping organise the Expo as part of ABCD/JAM Committee, Rose and Brianna are superstar YUCY leaders, Meysam, Lloyd, Emily and Dave (STAHP DAVE, YOU'RE TOO MUCH) are kicking goals at Olive Way - Meysam has started a Table Tennis Tournament FYI and did I spot Sam at the sound desk Sunday before last?

What can I say, these guys are rad, I'm stoked to get to hang out. In fact we'd like you to hang out too! If you're interested in hosting a dinner or getting more involved in the community, call me, email, Morse code or smoke signal me and we'll get things rolling!

> Student House Faith Spot

Abi Benham-Bannon

Hi! For those who don't know me, my name is Abi. I am currently in my final year of studying geography and spanish, and in my fourth year in the student house program. I moved to Melbourne from Castlemaine about three years ago to study, and since then (despite missing 'the country'!) have really enjoyed getting involved in Melbourne life, and particularly the BUC community! This year I am finishing up my study, continuing to be involved in some social justice groups (including Love Makes A Way) and fitting dance (contemporary/improvisation) into any spare moments. I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of this community, which is so full of inspiring people and has supported me so much. Please feel free to come up to me for a chat anytime - I look forward to getting to know you all more!



Pre school Parents

We had a spontaneous catch up at Anita Major-Brown's in the last week of April.

Julie will send out a doodle date vote to try and scoop together a date that suits folk who couldn't be there. So good to have unhurried time around the little ones, and such a privilege to have them and their parents in our congregation!



YUCY and YUCY OG

We're into Term 2, we've had two YUCYs and it's chugging along well! It's a very cool crew of teenagers (I feel so old and out of touch).

Next YUCY Friday night on **May 13th!!** Also YUCY OG coffee after church today!!

Transform Gathering

May 7th @ BUC!!

"Transform" is offered as a ministry to gather together young adults (anyone in their 20s and 30s) in exploring faith, theology and life and meet fellow young Uniting church peeps!

Our next gathering will be on May 7 at Brunswick Uniting Church, a conversation with Sean Winter around "Loving St Paul".

Starts at 5pm followed by dinner at 6.30 (pizzas). \$5 contribution for meal and BYO drinks!

For further info, get in touch with Anika 0401181664



> Pastoral Care News - Community

The Community Team has already been active this term and will continue to be in May.

AAA Dinners

Over the weekend of **8th-10th April** 51 people attended 8 **Appetizingly Awesome April Dinners**. Everyone had a wonderful time. Here are just a few comments:

Even the baby met new friends and had a great time. (Meg)

I went to a dinner at Helen Burnham's house. I had a wonderful night with 5 beautiful women. We experienced incredible hospitality from Helen, had a lovely meal and shared stories, experiences & ideas. (Sarah)

Thanks for organising the Dinners. You did a great job. We had a lovely Sunday lunch - nice people and a fun time. (Mick)

My guests came about 6.30 and left about 10.15 - I thought conversation might be a bit awkward but on the contrary it was free-flowing and delightful - so lovely to be part of such an intelligent and caring community. (Anthony)

We had such a good time. It was a relaxing lunch where many new friendships were begun. (Glenice)

Our dinner was such fun. I'd had a massive day and was grateful to get a lift to dinner with Sarah Curnow. We arrived at the gathering to discover our host, Helen B was surprised to see us all as she was expecting us the following night! We all pitched in and had a fabulous bolognaise with all the trimmings. It was wonderful to share stories over a meal. (Steph)

Watch out for the SSS dinners in September. Join in the fun of building community.



Cafe Style Morning Tea



We hosted **Cafe Style Morning Tea** with the JAM committee after worship on **17th April**. It was great to see so many people sitting, enjoying each others company and then listening to amazing array of **BUC Expo presentations**.

Two documents were available on the tables at the Expo: A **community map** which provides information about all the activities of the congregation and the contact people and a **council map** which provides information about the work of the committees that report to council together with contact information for the Ministry Team.

As part of the Pastoral Care presentation Ian invited people to respond to the question 'What have we missed?', seeking thoughts about possible gaps in the ways that we provide connections within the BUC community.

If you have any thoughts or responses please email Ian: iferguson@icloud.com.

Church Camp

Coming up we are hosting the **Church Camp** at the lovely Adekate Forest Lodge near Creswick over the weekend of **20th-22nd May**. 'Love - No Strings Attached' is the theme. It's always a wonderful weekend, you can come for the whole weekend, one night or just a Saturday day trip. If you haven't been before, do come along; if you haven't been in a while, come back!

It will be a wonderful weekend, with activities ranging from baking sourdough bread (made with love) to exploring "sanctuary discipleship" (love for the stranger), to bushwalking (love for creation) to simply hanging out (loving each other, with no strings attached). And of course, creative worship (love for God) involving everyone's gifts on Sunday morning.

REGISTER NOW at <http://www.trybooking.com/KZFN>



Lunch

And to conclude the marvellous month of May we'll be hosting a **soup & rolls lunch** with the Brunswick Indonesian UC congregation after our shared service on **Sunday 29th May**. If you would like to supply a pot of soup please contact Sarah Curnow, 0422 223 842.

> JAM News

Book Group



The biggest event in the JAM/ABCD calendar of recent times was the **Great BUC Expo** held on **Sunday 17th April**. We expected 18 groups to do a 2 minute pitch of their group activities and in the end I think we had 24! So much happening at BUC! It was great to hear about all the wonderful activities and to learn a little more about how we could all get involved. Phew! What an incredible array of opportunities – for any age, any interest/passion/cause and any talent! We hope that it has provided everyone with more ideas of what we can join and support. Ian also proposed a space for us to think about the activities that are missing from BUC. Given so many presentations, the time we hoped to use to explore them further evaporated – so hopefully we can create other forums and ways to consider new activities and to extend the work of our current groups into the future. A collection of the spoken presentations is being prepared and will be available on our website in the next couple of weeks. Watch for the link in the Olive Press.

Food Co-op



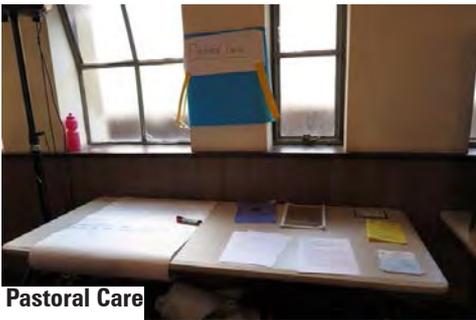
Love Makes a Way



Thank you to everyone who made a presentation and thanks especially to those who created a display. We'd like to feature those displays over the coming weeks and invite you to keep them on hand to recreate at morning tea in the near future. Contact Meredith, Kirsty, Saide, Leanne, David or Abi to book your space!

So what's next for the ABCD/JAM group? We continue to promote issues through the year and to contribute ideas for the Sydney Road Tower Room window exhibits. We are thinking about hosting an election forum at BUC in mid-June. If you think that is a good idea – please let us know how you can support the event and what issues we should cover. We also welcome more members!

Meredith Budge



Pastoral Care



Finance



Sacred Harp



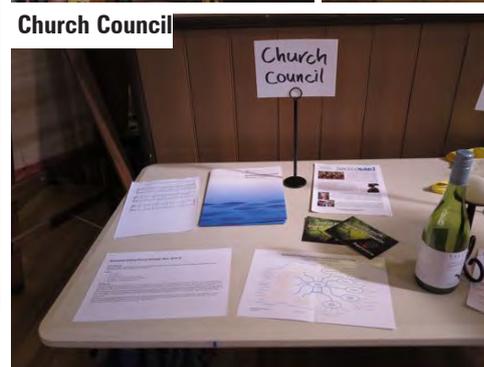
Discipleship & Education



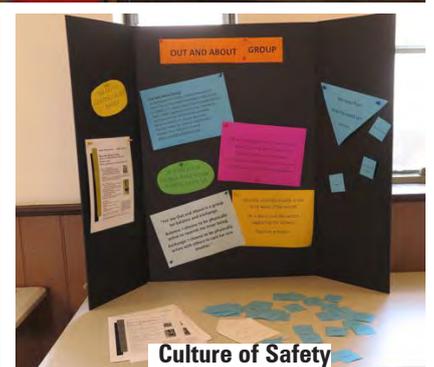
Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry



Meditation



Church Council



Culture of Safety

> Discipleship & Education News



Padraig is coming!

Discipleship & Education are proud to announce that we have been able to secure two sessions with exciting Irish poet and teacher Padraig O'Tuama.

Once again, Mondays are go: this time **Monday 16th & 30th May**

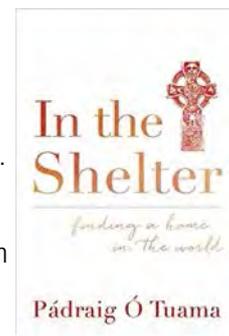
We gather at 7.30 for interactive stimulation on the topic of:

"Once upon a time in Eden: raw stories of the women and men of Genesis".

(There will be a youth/young adults Bible Study with Padraig on **Thursday 19 May**)

If you haven't read his autobiographical meditation "In the Shelter", it is an accessible and lovely read. You can buy it from Book Depository UK.

Bring a plate if you are able, and see you in May.



> FUNdraising News

Share Appeal

The FUNdraising committee will host a stall after worship on **Sunday 15th May** to support the Share Winter Appeal. The Share Appeal is officially held in June but as you will see below we have a big event planned for June and want to avoid crowding the calendar.

The stall will feature preserves, baked goods and anything else that people want to offer for sale. If you would like to contribute something to the stall please contact Saide Cameron, 0407 096 743 or Glenice Cook, 0414 319 649 to let us know what you are offering. We'd appreciate pre-priced items if you are bringing them on the day.

You can find out more about Share here: <http://shareappeal.org.au>. Information about this year's Winter Appeal will be available later in the month. Envelopes for personal donations will also be available.



FUNdraising Dinner

Save the date. It's going to be a fabulous evening of entertainment, delicious food and most of all FUN.

Peter Murphy, our well known Olive Way Chef, will prepare a two course meal to delight your taste buds.

The feature FUNdraising event will be an Auction of specially sourced items.

Musical entertainment, a silent auction, table drawing competition and more will ensure that a wonderful evening will be had by all.

Dress la-di-dah because seriously 'how many opportunities do you have to do so'!!

Book your table of eight, \$60 a seat, \$20 concession; tax deductible receipts can be provided. BYO drinks.

Contact Saide Cameron 0407 096 743 to make your bookings.

Term 3

Our big event for term 3 will be a public Street Stall on **Saturday 23rd July** to raise funds for disaster relief. Our aim is to have money set aside to respond to the call for support in response to natural and man-made disasters. More on that next term.

> Olive Way News

"Creativity" is this word of the month at Olive Way and what a lot of talent we have in the room!

Soma Exhibit

Some of our incredible artists recently had works on display at an exhibition titled "SOMATICA" held at the nearby SOMA Gallery in Brunswick. A big thank you to SOMA, Ailey, Richard and George (the Arts Access crew) for helping to make it such an inspiring and uplifting event.

And a big thanks to our own Leanne and Ann for the continuing help and support they bring to the arts program. Of course, thanks also to all who came along to show their love and support,

it's been great to hear so much wonderful feedback. See more photos on our Facebook [page](#)



SROC Opera

And speaking of talent – Coming up!

The premiere performance from SROC (Sydney Road Opera Company) with their musical comedy: "If The Shoe Fits".

Thursday 5th May, 11:30am

Put the date in your diary folks, it's going to be a cracker! (see poster [here](#)).



SROC

SYDNEY ROAD
OPERA
COMPANY

• PROUDLY PRESENTS •

IF THE SHOE FITS

- WALKING WITH YOU -

And in other news:

Regular Olive Way visitor Bill Beauchamp recently made a return to ultra-marathon running after a 10 year break, completing the Coburg 24hour marathon at the tender age of 69! Well done Bill.

Sadly, we said farewell to one of our terrific vollies, Kimberly Fraser, who we already miss heaps. However, our sad news is Kim's happy news as we wish her all the very best in her new job.

We also wish Helen all the best as she takes a break for a while, we look forward to your cheery chats again soon.

We welcome back Tim Hoffmann who'll be joining the vullie team after a break, it's wonderful to see old friends return!

And finally:

We are still keen to hear from the want-to-be-cooks amongst you! 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, Olive Way Coordinator,
feigh.b@gmail.com, 0421 027 467

Sanctuary Update

As you may know, there is now a Working Group at BUC that is taking sole responsibility for implementing any "Sanctuary" - that is, any offer of hospitality at BUC to one or more of the 267 asylum seekers at risk of deportation to Nauru or Manus Island after their medical treatment in Australia. At the moment, all of the 267 are being advised by their lawyers about the risks of seeking sanctuary (which could be quite serious for them). So far, we haven't had any requests, and we're not expecting any in the immediate future - though we want to be ready to respond if called upon. So we're doing some quiet planning, and I'm keeping in contact with the national ecumenical campaign, our Synod liaison person, and the lawyer for most of the 267.

The Sanctuary movement started as a spontaneous reaction to the High Court's declaration that the government could legally deport the 267 to Nauru. Well over 100 churches have now formally offered Sanctuary, in support of the broader #LetThemStay campaign. Many others have also offered their support. We should all take heart at the success this campaign has already had:

The government had planned - and booked planes - to take people to Nauru within days of the High Court decision. None have gone.

Baby Asha was released from Lady Cilento Hospital to community care in Brisbane, rather than being sent with her family straight back to Nauru.

While 220 of the 267 were in lock-up detention at the time of the High Court case, now about 180 (including all the children) are in "community detention".

The Sanctuary movement among the churches, along with the broader campaign, has made a significant difference to the government's decisions about these asylum seekers. So please keep up your prayers and your engagement with politicians - especially during the election campaign! Although it's unlikely that we'll see any significant policy shifts on refugees during the campaign, the candidates really do listen to people's key concerns at election time. If we can make our voices heard now, there may be a new space for policy change after the election.

Shawn Whelan, BUC Sanctuary Co-ordinator



Una & Wesley

In the April Olive Branch we acknowledged Una & Wesley Trigg's 62nd Anniversary. During worship on **Sunday 3rd April** their daughter Jocelyn expressed her delight in knowing that her parents had found a welcoming and nurturing congregation at BUC.

We presented Una & Wesley with an orchid to celebrate the occasion.



Farewell for a while

Nic, Joel, Oscar and Hamish are moving to Budapest for 3 months. Nic has an opportunity to work with the International Federation of Red Cross as a Migration Advisor, working with Red Cross bodies across Europe to support the response to the influx of migrants in Europe. Luckily, Joel is able to take long service leave from his work for this period, and is very much looking forward to enjoying time with the boys and discovering the best of Hungarian playgrounds and castles. To finish off the wonderful adventure, they will travel in Europe for a few weeks before returning home in early August.

NB - This story was originally offered in the Olive Press for 17/4.

Help for Vanuatu

Recently we [Wilma and Richard Collard] have been given several books to send to Vanuatu, but we are finding the task too hard for us and therefore are asking for some help. We just find the books too heavy for us to handle. We need about four people to load the books into small boxes, and pack them for us and if possible take them to Geelong, although we could transport them if we could have them loaded. We are sorry to have to ask for help but like the good book says "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak".

Call 9300 3115 or email collardrv@bigpond.com to offer your assistance as soon as possible.



John Venning turned 69 on **Saturday 23rd April** and about 10 members of the congregation celebrated with him at Stewart Lodge.

The next day at church we all sang happy birthday during morning tea.

Happy Birthday John



Special thanks to Sophie Delaney and Kirsty Bennett for providing the yummy cakes and others for bringing along some snacks which were enjoyed by the residents.

John mentioned that he had a very nice day and would like to thank everyone for their kindness.

Richard Arnold

> Special Events

Safe Church Training

Date: **Saturday 28th May** 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Where: Brunswick Uniting Church main Hall

Who should attend a Safe Church Workshop?

- Anyone who is involved in ministry with young people (0-18 years old)
- People in leadership and pastoral roles within the congregation, such as Elders, Church Council members and Ministers, pastoral care visitors.
- Anyone interested in learning more about practical ways of making our churches safe places.

New training format since 2014 session - you get to explore and discuss the issues. Each participant will receive a comprehensive manual. Helen Rowe will facilitate the session. Workshop includes UPDATES on recent legislation and Synod policies and what we are doing at BUC.

Safe Church Training should be undertaken every 3 years. People who did the training in 2014 are welcome to attend this year but this is not a requirement.

A further session will be offered next year.

REGISTER HERE: <https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/safe-churchtraining2016/registration/brunswick/>

Or Contact Helen Rowe 0423 009 813 to indicate your interest.



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.

Summary of Events

- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 8th-15th May**, see Worship Calendar p 3.
- **Pentecost Sunday, 15th May**, see Worship Calendar, p 3
- **FUNdraising Stall** (for the Share Appeal), **15th May**, see FUNdraising News, p 9
- **Paidraig studies, 16th & 30th May**, see Discipleship & Education News, p and 19th May, see CY&YA News, p 9
- **Church Camp, 20th-22nd May**, see Pastoral Care News, p 7
- **Soup & Rolls Lunch** (with BIUC congregation), **29th May**, see Pastoral Care News, p 7
- **FUNdraising Dinner** (for the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre), **18th June**, see FUNdraising News, p 9

> 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.

Out and About Group

A monthly social group for older, active women and men. We visit places of interest or simply enjoy sharing experiences over coffee. An occasional entrance fee or refreshment purchase may be required. New members are always welcome. Contact Helen for further information.

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

Mulling

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 3rd May**, 7pm at Emily's house, C306/460 Victoria St. Brunswick). Come along for potluck dinner and conversation with Julie Perrin talking about an aspect of working out our faith in the world.

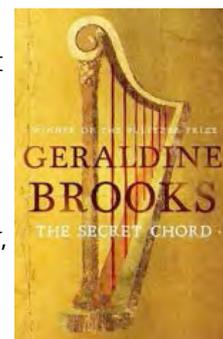
Mulling is our monthly catch up/discussion/mulled wine appreciation club for young adults 25-35. We will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month for the rest of the year.

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

Book Club at BUC

Wednesday 25th May, 7.30 – 9 pm,
Olive Way, Brunswick UC

This month we will be discussing the latest work from Geraldine Brooks, a favourite author for some of us. In *The Secret Chord*, based on the Old Testament's King David, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.



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: **14th May, 18th June**

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

Dear Friends,

It is with tremendous pleasure that I write to you once again. I am gratified to report that the membership of your Church Council remain in robust health, and are positively riotous with activity. You may rest in the assurance that performing the will of the congregation remains our most cherished purpose in life.

To that end, Church Council has extended the employment of Fiona Bottcher and Anika Jensen in their respective roles as Olive Way Coordinator and Student House Coordinator/Youth Leader until the 31st of December. This has followed an open and transparent process of advertisement and consultation for these positions once the original terms of contract had expired. Sisters Bottcher and Jensen have been reconfirmed in their positions on the basis of merit, following a distinguished first term of service, for which there was much singing and gaiety.

The business of Council is currently strongly influenced by the expiry of the current Strategic Plan. The drafting of a new strategic plan is among our top priorities, though we recognise that the demands of such a task are onerous and time consuming. To that end, work is currently underway to design a new paid position in the ministry team to be employed in the second half of 2016. The parameters of this role are not yet established, though possible briefs including planning and developing the strategic plan, reviewing the ministry activities of the congregation, assessing, and possibly piloting potential new ministry activities.

This is all part of Council's discernment of how to adapt the ministry team following the departure of Carlyne. Her former responsibilities in the Church have been ably maintained by the

interim Olive Way Coordinator and Student House Coordinator positions (as well as by other generous volunteers in the congregation), however, this transition creates an exciting opportunity for our congregation to review the shape of our ministry team and consider how the ministry activities of our congregation can strengthen and evolve. This might be in the areas of social justice, fresh expressions ministries, or any number of other possibilities. Our hope is that the ministry worker to be appointed in 2016 will partner with the congregation to have this conversation, review the ministry work of the Church, and help to design a permanent ministry position to be filled from 2017, as part of the wider vision of the new strategic plan.

Renovation works to the Youth Hall continue unabated, and Council is excited by the refreshing effect that this has had upon the space. We are continuing to devote resources to this project, partly as an indication of the high value Council places upon children and youth ministries in our congregation.

Regrettably, Council has had to respond in recent weeks to a series of burglaries which have exposed vulnerabilities in the security of our doors and the fortitude of our safe. We are having to replace numerous stolen items at significant expense, and we are investigating potential strategies for better securing our site from future incidents.

Council offers its many thanks to those who participated in the extraordinarily successful first BUC Expo. We were all dazzled by this reminder of the astonishing activity and life in our congregation.

Ever your humble servant, **Secretary Broadstock.**

Worship Committee

After our non-meeting in March we had a full house for April with new member Helen Burnham and Julie Perrin visiting in her Children & Youth Co-ordinator role. David Stephens hosted the meeting which meant that he also prepared worship, chaired the meeting and provided supper. All this for his second meeting as a member of the committee! David treated us to a delicious pre-meeting supper of home made pizza with all dietary requirements thoughtfully catered for. He then invited to us to reflect on the rituals that ground us in our faith for our opening worship.

After **reflecting** on Holy Week worship and the services since then we discussed a wide range of items with a number of them being specifically related to the engagement of young people in worship.

Natalie Sims is organizing **music workshops for young musicians** to learn some familiar songs in preparation for leading worship. Shawn Whelan, Elaine Potter, David Stephens and Natalie are looking forward to working with our young

musicians in this way. If you have a child who loves to sing or play an instrument please let Natalie (0457 054 807) or Elaine (0434 671 109) know.

Julie Perrin has been liturgist for three **All Age Worship services** (February, March & April) so far this year. We have been trialling this practice in order to allow for a more coherent integration between worship and the all age activities in the Gathering Space. We feel that this has been working well and that there is considerable value in Julie participating in this way within her role as Children & Youth Co-ordinator. If you have any comments please let a worship committee member know.

The CY&YA and worship committees would love to hear from people who can assist with the **all age activities** either preparing and delivering the them activities or simply being an extra pair of hands on the day. This is a fabulous way to participate in our **Children & Youth ministry**. See CY&YA News, p5 or contact Julie (0409 019 987) to if you want to find out more.

We discussed the key outcomes of the **Pageant Debrief** held after worship on 20th March:

- We want to pay attention to mentoring our younger children into key roles
- We agreed that it is important to maintain a balance between a focus on young people telling the story and the recent multi-age, multi-cultural approach
- The production team will have great clarity about the scope and responsibilities of their roles
- We want to create our script and will most likely start that process in June
- Wayne Matthews is going to build a series of multi-purpose platforms

Later in the month the **Tower Room window display** will have a Pentecost theme in response to Pentecost Sunday. The Tower Room has been in a state of disarray since the recent burglaries with damage to the safe and storage cupboard. We hope to attend to the resulting chaos soon as it has had a serious impact on the amenity of the space and our capacity to open the window to the streets during worship on Sunday mornings. A proposal to address storage and security is currently being discussed.

We've started thinking about celebrating the stories of our vast array of **worship resources**. We'll be doing this in three ways. The painting, print and photograph displayed in the Gathering and Chapel spaces will have name plates installed underneath them. We're going to create a book about significant objects, for example the baptismal font, stain glass windows, communion table. We welcome suggestions for other items to be included in this book. The book will be available in the Gathering Space and a collection of the stories will also be available on the website. Our banners have all been photographed and have been available to look at on our website for quite some time. The collections of banners have recently been sorted and labelled with some more work still to be done. You can view the collection here: <http://www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/resources/banners.php>.

And now for a brief look at worship during April ...

3/4 – Easter 2: John 20:19-31, Psalm 150 Ian, Sarah and Julie planned and led the all age worship service which began with the

shared lighting of the Christ Candle. Sarah and Julie explored the story of how Jesus appeared to the disciples when they were locked away in the upstairs room because they were scared and then how Thomas responds when Jesus appears a second time inviting Thomas to touch his wounds.



Julie said that Thomas gave us all a gift because Jesus still came to him even though he had doubts. Julie then invited the children to join Ann Soo in the Gathering Space to begin the great Children's Decoupage Chair project.

Sarah Tomilson, our student minister, began her first sermon with us praising God and acknowledging the waiting and sorrow and joy that we had recently experienced saying *'I hope that the peace of joy of Easter may still be with you and the presence of this unbelievable, unfathomable, radical, transformative love.'*



Sarah went on to discuss the difficulty of belief and the doubt that we all experience. She said *'I feel like it is a great leap of faith to believe that all is well and that is the Easter message. There is a radical presence among us that we are loved, born in love and made from love.'* Sarah described a recent experience of this, of being put back together when attending a gathering to celebrate the impending birth of a friend's baby.

Sarah turned our attention to the gospel story, of Jesus appearing to his disciples in the upstairs room and the transformative nature of that experience amidst the grief, sorrow and fear that followed Jesus's crucifixion. She reminded us that Thomas wasn't there and that he was unable to believe without seeing Jesus. Reflecting on Jesus appearing to Thomas she said that *'It is a story that explains the meaning of seeing, what it means to see, not just with the eyes, but also with the heart. It's a story of conversion and one that I imagine many of us would relate to.'* She commented that Thomas didn't actually touch Jesus' wounds because *'It was the presence, the connection, the experience of being loved and known that converted Thomas' heart.'*

She commented on Jesus' question to Thomas and concluded *'This belief of which Jesus speaks: Blessed are those who believe without seeing, without demanding proof, but trusting in the presence of Christ. This embodiment of love is real, is tangible and to be trusted even when it seems impossible.'*

As always for the first Sunday of the month we celebrated Holy Communion.





10/4 – Easter 3: Acts 9:1-20, Psalm 30

Ian invited the children to come and stand with him and Sarah to go on a journey together to explore the story of Saul travelling on the road to Damascus to meet the people who follow Jesus on the Way. Ian explained that Saul's direction was the way of 'anger' whereas the people on the Way are travelling the way of 'love'.



Exploring the story with one group as Saul and the other as people of the Way the children learned that Saul hears Jesus speaking to him and experiences a change of direction becoming Jesus' messenger Paul. They travelled the road together along the Way and then around the Communion table. Ian said that Jesus sends us to be his messengers.

After the children's address Ian invited the Elders to come out the front and they walked along the Way together for the Commissioning of Sarah Gesling and Linda Wannan as Elders of our congregation.

Ian, Steph, Ray, Daniel, Meredith, Linda, Shawn

In his sermon Ian focused on Jesus' question to Saul *'Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?'* repeating it again and again. He commented that our faith is one that emerges out of the shadow of persecution but that there is debate about the extent of this persecution. Exploring the self-identification of Christians with persecution and the potential to look for it where isn't Ian affirmed that religious persecution is real and made reference to the suicide bombing in Lahore on Easter Sunday saying *'Easter joy and the horror of persecution. Vulnerable hope and violent destruction. A terrible contradiction which we enter into today on the road to Damascus.'* Ian shared facts and figures outlining the scale of worldwide contemporary persecution of the church. In particular he spoke about the persecution in Syria in which people's homes were marked with the symbol in the slide shown here. Returning to Saul on the road to Damascus Ian said that in speaking to Saul *'Jesus identifies his risen self with his persecuted followers. Why are you persecuting me, Jesus the Nazarene?, Me, bombed to oblivion on Easter Day in Lahore, me tortured with the tens of thousands in North Korean Labour camps, me forced to flee my home with the millions in Syria, me afraid to teach my own children about my faith.'* Ian explained that the contradiction of Easter faith and violent persecution is healed for *'we are called not just to empathise with the persecuted but to believe that we are one with them in the suffering of Christ'*.



Ian shared that he was to baptize a member of the Brunswick Indonesian UC congregation that evening saying *'It's easy to baptize someone but what a profound responsibility, for baptism unites us in the wounded Christ. One body across the world.'* Having explained that the phrase 'one body' comes from Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians Ian concluded with a prayer *'And so friends today in the spirit on the road to Damascus we pray for the body of the Nazarene wherever he suffers persecution ... Jesus we pray for your body. We pray for the sanctuary that we might give as your body and we join our voices with yours 'Why are you persecuting me?' Amen*

17/4 – Easter 4: Psalm 23, John 10:22-30, Acts 9:36-43

Ian and Julie invited the children to dress up in sheep costumes to explore Psalm 23. Together they walked the right path, restored their souls by the still waters (at the baptismal font), through the dark valley to the table where we eat together as God's family. They shared a beautiful gestural prayer before going out to Sunday Morning program.



Ian used a number of songs to shape and illuminate the theme of his sermon which he said is *'all about standing up today'*. The first song was from the Warumpi Band with the song 'Black Fella, White Fella' from 1985, a call to stand up and be counted. He offered us a list of ways that we can metaphorically stand up and then all the ways in which Jesus stands up, stands for and stands against before he dies. He spoke of the women going to the tomb and finding the angels there who reminded them of Jesus' words that on the third day he would *'stand up'*. Ian said that the word used for resurrection in Luke's gospel means 'stand up'. He said *'Jesus stands up. What about us?'* and spoke about how we are called to stand up. In reference to the Safe Church recognition that followed the sermon he said *'Today in our service we focus*

on one particular stand we are called to take as the Uniting Church, the whole church, in light of the Royal Commission into institutionalised child abuse and all that we already knew before it. Jesus calls us saying stand up, stand up against abuse in all its forms. ... Stand up as I stood up says Jesus to his church.'

He went on to speak of Peter's ministry, of his standing up, of the healing of Aeneas and the rising of Tabitha. We listened to Sly and the Family Stone who sing of healing and the challenge to iron out the crease in our right and wrong; a call, Ian said, to rise up like Aeneas out of the paralysis of our fear. We listened to the Staple Singers with their call to stand. Ian said that *we are called to stand up like Tabitha, to stand when it seems impossible, when we have no resources of our own with which to rise and no hope of doing so. We are called to respond to the voice of God calling us ... We are called to rise up in the rising of Jesus Christ trusting the God who brings new life where there seems to be no hope of it. So friends stand up, for when Christ's people stand up with him life is renewed, hope is rekindled. Helping hands are extended. When Christ's people stand up with him death is defeated, violence is rendered impotent, fear is overcome by love. When Christ's people stand up with him a new world comes into being. We can't do it alone but we rise in Christ's rising.* He concluded 'One last song, Bob Marley's classic performed in a remarkable way. See it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6szT5NnwTY>

24/4 – Easter 5: Acts 11:1-18, John 13:31-35 While Ian enjoyed a restorative weekend away bush walking we welcomed Ian David as our preacher at the beginning of his time as Artist in Residence for the Sunday Morning Program. Ian shared a plethora of rules that he had been given when he was young including 'Shhh Ian' and 'Do your homework'. The children suggested some of their own, 'Don't spend all day on your iPad'. The rules were blutacked around the cross after which Ian hung a glorious orange lei from the cross to illustrate Jesus' one big rule: 'Love one another as I have loved you'.



As already mentioned in Meredith's 'Sharing our Faith' story Ian began his sermon singing lines from a Prince song and continued to do so a number of times throughout the sermon beautifully illustrating each point. He spoke about the devastating effects of love being taken away and suggested that Jesus' command to love one another is given to the community 'because we can hold more difficult things better when we are together than when we shoulder it alone'.



Ian commented on Peter's disturbing dream and wondered 'Is the Spirit of God prompting him to consider the forbidden? Have you ever had the Spirit prompt you to do something you are sure is out of bounds? ...' He went on to explore dreams further speaking of one that he had about his friend Jon who had died many years ago, about sharing the dream with Jon's younger brother and what it meant to the brother. Ian said 'The wonderful thing in today's reading is that Peter's dream is not really interpreted. Other than what happened next. ...'

Returning to Jesus' commandment Ian concluded *What is the loving thing to do when we get our nose out of joint? Learn to love one another again. How do we respond to those in our city's margins? Love one another by advocating for help and homes. Do we have that kind of reputation, like Peter, of people who might know something of the mystery of God's Spirit? Does it show in our loving of those in our world? What do we do with the wild and forbidden promptings of our dreams? Love, love again, and find the Spirit working before we even get there. Love. One another. Because, nothing compares to it. Nothing compares to each one of you.'*

The **sermons are recorded** each Sunday and are available on our website: <http://www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/resources/sermons/sermons.php>. As mentioned at the start of the report for the worship that began our meeting in April we discussed rituals that ground us in our faith. At the time I said that I didn't have any other than to sing blessings to myself when I'm struggling to return to sleep in the middle of the night (my current favourite is 'May God's sheltering wings'). But now I've realised that I do have another ritual. It's to listen to the sermons again, not because I have to but because listening to them again at home allows me to hear them differently to Sunday mornings. I can stop, re-listen, write things down that feel significant. I can think more intentionally about what they tell me about my faith, about how to live and how to love. If you miss a Sunday try and find 20 minutes to sit and listen, or go for a walk and listen to it on your phone or even while you're driving to work. You won't be sorry.

Saide Cameron

Finance Committee

While “many are the gifts” held by the Church, we tend to concentrate on those that involve money.

There has been a steady slow increase in giving (Sunday offerings and Direct credits) with an increasing congregation and attendance. This contributes to the extra commitments we are making to the Olive Way and Youth Group activities, as well as our commitments to the Ministry, Pastoral Care, Children and Youth plus Justice and Mission.

Mal Rowe has produced a new batch of sticky labels for those who like to plan ahead and set aside their offerings in an envelope on a week by week basis. These are ideal for those with an irregular income or who have widely-varying financial commitments. The direct offerings remain larger than our weekly ‘bowls’, which is useful for planning.

Council has OK’d the Finance committee establishing an asset register to include all non-real-estate assets, whether purchased or donated. This will help manage records of the essential small things, from hundreds of mugs to sound systems. Small systems are being evaluated by Mal.

Now that there are 6 staff ‘on the payroll’ at BUC, we need to keep on top of HR ‘paperwork’ and Finance has offered to maintain files of these. Be assured, we are not offering HR advice – that’s not our expertise, Presbytery provides that. As for assets, small systems are being evaluated, again by Mal.

Our audit of 2015 is due with Council early May. As indicated at the AGM, a small surplus was made, which may be used to offset a small deficit planned in 2016.

Our reserves held with UCA are healthy. Those set aside for specific use, such as roof repairs, are being used for their purpose.

MYOB Essentials has been used for over a year as an accounting package. It has served us well. It is time now to upgrade to MYOB Account Right, which has more features of use to management, namely budgeting and cost-centres. This upgrade is planned for late June.

The Finance team now consists of Ray Hardman, Mal Rowe, Tim Budge and me. We count and bank the collection, assist our book-keeper Austin Byard, manage the cash flow, respond to an amazing variety of both creditors and debtors (via those in the congregation on committees) and hope we are doing a good job for you all.

To continue this, we could use a little extra help on Sundays with counting and banking the collection. Those interested should come talk with me, Mal, Ray or Tim. We spread the work around, as at any time, two of us will be overseas with either Aid Work, VFF (visiting friends and family) or holidays. That’s why we need a few more to help!

Linda Wannan, Finance Committee / Treasurer ph 0405470568

Property Committee

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

- The tender response from the roof contractor has been reapproved by Church Council, it has been submitted to Presbytery and Synod for approval prior to proceeding.
- Replacement windows have been ordered for the youth hall, west wall and two office windows.
- Bike rack has been relocated and installed outside the office.
- Plates in the BBQ cage have been cleaned and are either being utilised or donated to Savers.
- Door closer on the women’s toilets has been replaced/ repaired.
- Doorstop on the front door has twice been broken and needs to be replaced again, very disappointing.
- Hot water unit at unit 1/278 Brunswick Road, has been replaced.
- Tap in the youth hall repaired.

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

- Organise to have the down light dimmers in the worship space repaired/replaced as required.

- Submit the insurance claim for the stolen items (from two break-ins) and to then replace them.
- Investigation of proposal to make the church more secure.
- Proceed 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.
- Fill and repaint cracks in the Manse.
- Re-measure 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.
- The door closer on the door between the Olive Way and the Worship Space is being investigated in an attempt to ensure that it shuts in a timelier manner. The modification to the sensors has been effective.
- Continuing investigating child proof locking arrangements for the gates on the youth hall front yard.

Ray Cameron

> 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, particularly in 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 Safe Church 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.

> Happy Birthday

Dave Baker, David Calwell, Aimee Collard, Barry Cook, Brenna Ferguson, Faye Findlay, Linda Fisher, Clara Hall, Alistair Hunter, Colin Hunter, Brooklyn Hunter, Morgan Hunter, David Millard, Digby Moore, Joshua Nankervis, Julie Perrin, Eva Rugel, Beth Shelton, Natalie Sims, Bruce Warrington, Shawn Whelan

> Preaching Plan

May 1	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion	May 22	Ian David, 9:30 am Trinity Sunday	June 19	??
May 8	Ian Ferguson	May 29	Ian Ferguson Combined BIUC	June 26	Ian Ferguson
May 15	Ian Ferguson Pentecost Sunday	June 5	?? Holy Communion	July 3	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion
May 15	<i>to be advised, 5:00 pm</i> Pentecost Ecumenical	June 12	??	July 10	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
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

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
22/5	Trinity	Prv 8:1-4,22-31	Ps 8	Rom 5:1-5	Jn 16:12-15	W
29/5	Pent 2	1 Kgs 18:20-21 (22-29) 30-39	Ps 96	Gal 1:1-12	Lk 7:1-10	G
5/6	Pent 3	1 Kgs 17:8-16 (17-24)	Ps 146	Gal 1:11-24	Lk 7:11-17	G
12/6	Pent 4	1 Kgs 21:1-10, (11-14)15-21a	Ps 5:1-8	Gal 2:15-21	Lk 7:36-8:3	G
19/6	Pent 5	1 Kgs 19:1-4, (5-7) 8-15a	Ps 42 & 43	Gal 3:23-29	Lk 8:26-39	G
22/6	UCA Anniversary	Deut 30:1-10	Ps 100	1 Cor 3:10-17	Jn 15:1-8	R
26/6	Pent 6	2 Kgs 2:1-2, 6-14	Ps 77:1-2, 11-20	Gal 5:1, 13-25	Lk 9:51-62	G

May 2016 Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Easter 6 May 1 9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC, AA 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	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way 11:30 – Opera 7:30 – D&E C’tee		2:30 – Coffee
Easter 7 8 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	9	10	11	12	13	14
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Church Council	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way	7:30 – YUCY	10:00 – Food Co-op
Pentecost 15 9:30 – Ian Ferguson FUNdraising Stall Share Appeal 5:00 – Ecumenical W’p 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	16	17	18	19	20	21
7:30 – Padraig Study	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 7:30 – Padraig Study (Y&YA)	6:30 – Church Camp		Church Camp
Trinity Sunday 22 Church Camp 9:30 – Ian David 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	23	24	25	Sorry Day 26		28
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Property C’tee	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation 6:30 – JAM C’tee 7:30 – Pastoral Care C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way	7:30 – YUCY	9:30 – Safe Church Training
Pentecost 2 29 9:30 – Ian Ferguson Combined BIUC Soup & Rolls Lunch 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	30	31	June 1	2	3	4
7:30 – Padraig Study	9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – D&E C’tee			2:30 – Coffee