

> Justice & Mission News

From the committee ...

Lots happening as always. At our April meeting we discussed

- **Renovation of the Olive Way Kitchen** - Allen Kong Architects will continue the consultative process with Olive Way people and other users of the space in order to finalise the brief for the renovations. There will be an opportunity for anyone interested to talk to the architect. Please look for dates in the Olive Press. This will be submitted to the June Council meeting for approval.
- **3 year Olive Way Review** - We will oversee this internal review which will take place in the middle of the year with recommendations to be presented to the September Council meeting. It is our intention to be able to report to Council on the resources required for the next three years of this ministry and so secure tenure for that period for our paid staff.
- **Stewart Lodge Ministry** - the driving roster will be re-launched.
- **Manual for OWSG Members** - Our thanks to Richard Arnold for preparing this manual which we will be reviewing at our May meeting.
- **BUC Arts** - We discussed a review of our congregation's relationship with Arts Access and noted the change in convener of the BUCArts committee (details p10).
- **FUNdraising** - We acknowledged the money raised for the Lenten Appeal and Olive Way and also noted a new venture proposed by the FUNdraising committee (details p11).
- **ASWC & the BBQ** - We noted that the stolen BBQ was purchased by a member of our congregation therefore the JAM committee will directly fund its replacement.
- **Pay parity** - We have been exploring this issue with Council, two of our members will attend the May Council meeting to participate in further discussions.

Saide Cameron

BUC Arts

So much to share ...

Knit One Give One

On the **7th of April**, the Olive Pesto Craft Group gathered in the Youth Hall to hear Andrea Zilberman of KOGO (Knit One Give One) talk about the work of this amazing non-profit organisation. With 250 community partners, KOGO distributes over 78,000 knitted items per year to those most in need of warmth around Australia. Refuges, hospitals, hospices, and remote communities have all received items that range from blankets to children's toys. From its' humble beginnings in a lounge room of its founder, KOGO have expanded although keeping their grass roots approach. We were thrilled to finally present Andrea Zilberman with the 18 knitted blankets and a trove of other knits – the heartfelt result of last year's World Wide Knit in Public Day and dedicated follow up gatherings. Jenny Hunter who single-handedly stitched and crocheted around the borders of those blankets was thanked and acknowledged for her commitment and drive to get them all finished.



World Wide Knit in Public Day

It was a lovely morning and the ideal forerunner to our upcoming [World Wide Knit in Public Day 2018](#) on the **9th of June** from 12noon to 4pm in The Olive Way. Once again, KOGO will be our nominated charity and we look forward to their representation on the day. WE will be the hub of WWKIP Melbourne!

Join us to '**Knit, Wrap & Give with Love**', Everyone is welcome - knitters of all abilities. Yarn, needles, tuition and patterns for beanies, scarves and fingerless gloves provided by KOGO. Light lunch will be served and afternoon tea and coffee.

Enquiries Ann Soo on annsoo11@tpg.com.au



BUC Arts Convener

Ann Soo has stepped back from her role as Convener partly as a result of increased responsibility for the Student House Ministry. We are delighted that Leanne Salau and Tim Hoffmann will share this role until September.

Arts Access Review

The Arts Access program has been operating from the West End of the Hall for two blocks of 10 weeks each year for approximately seven years. The Olive Arts Collective grew from a group of volunteers who provided a program in the spaces between these funded blocks. This new program has become a vibrant artistic community as evidenced in the recent Studio Walk. We believe that it is now time to review the relationship particularly with respect to the values evidenced by both programs.

We are seeking the support of two artists who already have a strong interest in this ministry to oversee the review. Colin Hunter will represent the congregation. Terms of reference for the review will be finalised at our May meeting.

Olive Arts Collective

The program used the Youth Hall for two months at the beginning of the year. Participants enjoyed the light and the opportunity to work outdoors or to simply take time out but still be close to the program space. The JAM committee wholeheartedly supports the use of the Youth Hall for the program as does the Council.

We are looking forward to the completion of the new Community Scape Storage facility both for the space it will provide for storage of equipment but also for the opportunity to create a community mural on its walls.

Ann Soo with Saide Cameron

Stewart Lodge Ministry



John and Rosemary
Christmas Eve Pageant 2008



Ray Cameron and Rosemary
Bush Dance 13/6/2008



Vince & Rosa with Richard Arnold
Stewart Lodge Carols 2017

Farewells

In April we formally farewelled our much loved friend John Venning. We hope you enjoyed reading the story in 'Sharing our Faith', John has moved to a nursing home in Berwick, much closer to his sister Dulcie who can now visit him on a regular basis.

Rosemary Brown, a long time resident of Stewart Lodge, has also moved into nursing home care at St. Joseph's home in Northcote. Rosemary, like John, came along to worship for many years until she became too frail. She loved being in the pageant and especially loved inviting Ray Gormann and Ray Cameron, among other people, up for a spontaneous dance during worship.

Vince & Rosa have retired from their roles as managers at Stewart Lodge. The new managers continue to care for the 80+ residents, many of whom come along to worship, the Olive Way and Olive Arts program on a regular basis.

Visiting

Richard Arnold has reported that members of the Christ Church Anglican congregation have started taking an active interest in visiting residents at Stewart Lodge. In light of this Richard will be stepping back from the visiting role.

We will continue to maintain and develop our strong focus on supporting residents through the Olive Arts program. We will also actively support Stewart Lodge Carols in December.

Sunday driving roster

We do want to continue to provide residents with the opportunity to join us for worship. At the moment our pool of drivers is quite small. We want to respectfully acknowledge that, with John's increasing frailty, being on the Driving roster was becoming quite a challenging task with the level of care required to support John at worship.

The responsibilities now will be much simpler - Drivers will arrive at Stewart Lodge at 9am, go to the office, ask for an announcement to be made that *'a driver is available, come down in the next five minutes if you want to go to church'*.

After worship, at around 11am, you will take the residents home again.

Please contact Saide Cameron, 0407 096 743, if you can join the Stewart Lodge Driving roster - if we have 8 drivers that will require only a one-Sunday every two months commitment.

Saide Cameron with Richard Arnold

FUNdraising

Olive Way FUNdraising

Helen Burnham kept the **Pop-up Op Shop** open for the first three weeks in April raising a further \$225.70 for the Olive Way following on from the \$400.60 raised through the Devonshire Tea at the Sydney Rd. Street Party.

The first two **Back Yard Band Gigs with Terry Towelling & the Tank Tops**, held in February, raised \$794.00. It's never too late to book a Back Yard Band party, contact Alistair Hunter, 0488 302 583, pick a theme, invite your family, friends and neighbours to come along for an afternoon/evening of dancing with the best covers band ever and make a donation to the Olive Way Ministry.



The first of our two big events for the year is the [Trivia Night & Auction](#) on **Saturday 16th June**. Expect 6 big rounds of trivia, an Auction of four fabulous items, a Silent Auction of maybe 12-15 items, lots of prizes, drinks at bar prizes, a preserves table. It's going to be a fabulous night, hosted by the ever amazing and incredibly encouraging Alistair Hunter. Book a table (or a seat) with Saide Cameron, 0407 096 743 and simply do not miss out on this community event!!



We'd love to hear from anyone who can help us to organize this big event, with lots of tasks - big & small, preparation & on the day.

Our FUNdraising target for the Olive Way is \$5,000 for the year. Join in the fun in whatever you can.

Uniting Winter Appeal

And now for something completely different! Instead of our now traditional 'once a term after worship stalls' we're holding a **home-made pie drive** to support the **Uniting Winter Appeal** in June. Come along to the **pie bake-up** on **Saturday 2nd June** in the Hall kitchen - we'll be making sausage rolls, mini quiches, apple pies & possibly more. Kylie Doust's husband Vin (a professional chef) will be teaching us to make Italian pastries. You will be invited to place your order in advance for collection after worship on **Sunday 3rd June**.



Contact Glenice Cook, 0414 319 649, to register your interest in participating in the Pie Bake Up event. Order forms coming soon.

BUC Catering

Another new adventure for the FUNdraising Team (Saide Cameron, Glenice Cook, Jessica Kvanskul) is the launch of **BUC Catering**. Twice this year we have been invited to provide food for special family events. This has raised \$380 for the Olive Way ministries. We were so inspired by these invitations, and remembering other occasions that various members of our congregation have catered for, that we decided it was time to get organized.

We are working on creating a team of people who love to cook and a menu list for events and/or special occasions. We will cater for morning tea, afternoon tea or supper for special occasions, providing, for example, 6 pieces of savoury and 4 pieces of sweet food per person at reasonable rates. We will provide desserts and birthday cakes on request, also at reasonable rates.

In doing this we want to emphasize that this is not to be seen as a bargain opportunity, cheap way to cater for events but rather an opportunity to 'engage people in the FUNdraising events and activities of the congregation' (one of our goals) and to provide high quality home cooked food for people who want to support the Olive Way ministries. Also just a note that we won't be advertising publicly, just within the congregation for family and friends.

So if you love to cook and/or have a particular speciality that you think someone else might enjoy for their special occasion please contact Saide, 0407 096 743, to register your interest. The more people we have on the catering team the less each of us will need to be available.

ASWC FUNdraising

In addition to the Olive Way target we also have a FUNdraising target of \$5,000 for the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre. Last year's 'Welcome to my House Dinners' funded three projects for the ASWC: Development of the ASWC Community Edible Garden, Safe Food Handling Course, Refugee Week program. These programs support the resilience of people seeking asylum living in the community while they await an outcome on their protection visa application.

This year our second big event will be a **Bush Dance, Sausage Sizzle & Op Shop** on **Saturday 21st July**. Save the date, polish off your dancing shoes and be ready to have even more community fun.

Saide Cameron

Remembering Fouad Osman

You may have known him as Fred (a version of his name he offered for people who had trouble pronouncing 'Fouad'). You may have known him as the 'electric bike guy'. To most he was simply Fouad. He would often come to Olive Way with his bike helmet left firmly in place all day, sometimes disappearing out front to have a coffee and cigarette, and read the newspaper in the sunshine. He always had a bright smile that would cause his eyes to squint up and disappear. That smile appeared less frequently over the past 6 months as he battled many health complications and challenges at home.

He used to call me his 'mister', I had no idea what that meant until one day when he was retelling the story of Jesus telling his disciples that to be a 'mister', you must first become a slave. 'Ah!' I thought, 'Master! Now I get it.' His heavily accented English put a slightly different spin on the story.

Fouad was a devout man, an Assyrian Christian. I once asked him if he would like to say prayers before the Wednesday lunch, he respectfully declined. The next day he came to me and said, 'Peter, after you asked me to say prayers before the meal, I went home and recorded myself saying prayers on my phone. Please have a listen, it goes for 17 minutes!' I realized afterwards that he had refused because he couldn't think of a way to say grace in a couple of sentences; it was all or nothing with Fouad.

Fouad will be remembered fondly by many people at Olive Way, myself included. He had a complicated life, but he found a semblance of peace and companionship at Olive Way. There are many details of his death that are unclear; we will respect the family's privacy as they continue to deal with the loss. He will always be a 'mister', a servant hearted man.

Peter Blair, Olive Way Co-ordinator



Discipleship & Education News

What's your view point? Marginal or mainstream?

It goes without saying that groups are diverse and complex. What does it mean to be on the margins of a group - to be on the outside looking in? Alternatively, what does it mean to be in the mainstream, to have your experiences taken as default? How do these dynamics affect how different people experience the same group and how can we learn to be more inclusive and aware of diversity?

This is a reflective and exploratory workshop about group dynamics to strengthen the capacity of facilitators. This session will draw on the work of Training for Change (US social movement educators) and Arnold and Amy Mindell (Processwork and Worldwork).

Holly Hammond is founder, director and principal facilitator and trainer with Plan to Win. She is also the founder and co-convenor of the Melbourne Campaigners' Network and Plan to Thrive. Holly has been facilitating groups since she first became politically active at high school in the early 1990s and brings over twenty years of experience in social movements to her work as an educator, facilitator and mentor. (<http://plantowin.net.au/people/>)

Join the Discipleship & Education committee on **Thursday 26th July, 7:30pm** at BUC, to explore how these questions speak into our ministry of hospitality, and also into our general sense of what it is to be a "community of communities" - how we find our place, understand our place and help others to do likewise.

Mary Magdalen

On Friday 13th April approximately 20 people gathered at the Nova to watch this beautiful movie. I offer this reflection on the movie and invite you to read the full reflection from this [link](#).

Mary Magdalen focuses on the relationship between Mary (Mariam - Aramaic form of Miriam) of Magdala and Jesus (Yeshua) of Nazareth. It portrays the challenges Mary faced as part of an ultra-patriarchal Jewish community (around 30 CE in Judea/ Israel), choosing her own path and following Jesus' call. A simple Jewish community Magdala, on Lake Galilee with its mud brick buildings, with women and men sitting separately at synagogue, in grey basic garments, saying the same

prayers and blessings in Hebrew, as they do today. The pressures on Mary to marry and to do her father's bidding are shown dramatically with her life risking refusal and the fear and sorrow at leaving her sister. Mary's mystical yearning by simply seeking to sit quietly in synagogue and pray to her God, are an affront to her father and community: 'you pray at home, with the other women'. The call of Jesus to come, seek love and depth in Spirit, to truly know God, live with authenticity was too strong to be ignored for Mariam of Magdala. She exemplified the leaving behind of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters as Jesus called disciples to do. (Luke 14:26). *Read [more](#).*

Jenne Perlstein

> Regular Events

BUC Cycle

Join an enthusiastic group of cyclists after worship every 5-6 weeks and explore Melbourne's bike tracks. We head off after worship and cycle for about two hours and usually stop off for icecream and/or a drink along the way.

Join us on our next cycle on **Sunday 3rd June**.

For more details contact Colin Hunter, 0407 522 587.

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 evenings**, (6-7:30pm), shaped by a liturgy that invites us to reflect on the week that has passed and to pray for each other. The shape of the evening is informal and low-stress.

We are meeting on the **second & fourth Sunday of the month**. Everyone is welcome and you can come every 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 Helen (0423 009 813).

Mulling

Our next gathering will be **Tuesday 5th June** from 7:00pm unless advised otherwise. For details, contact Daniel Broadstock, 0479 039 640.

Meditation

There are a number of opportunities to be involved in Christian Meditation in Brunswick.

There are weekly meetings at 29 MacFarland Street Brunswick each **Wednesday** at 8am and 5.30pm (meetings go for 30 minutes). May dates: **16th, 23rd, 30th**

Sunday meditation times, meeting at the church at 8.15am are offered usually monthly. The next one is on **3rd June**.

New meditators are welcome and teaching is provided.

For more information contact Richard on 0407 796 429

The Olive Way

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

New volunteers are always welcome.

Contact Peter Blair, ph. 0431 193 810.

Book Club at BUC

facilitated by Jeanette Acland

7.30 – 9 pm, **Wednesday 23rd May 2018**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

Our May read is Raven black by Ann Cleeves, the first book in her award-winning suspense series Shetland.

Raven Black begins on New Year's Eve with a lonely outcast named Magnus Tait, who stays home waiting for visitors who never come. But the next morning the body of a murdered teenage girl is discovered nearby, and suspicion falls on Magnus. Inspector Jimmy Perez enters an investigative maze that leads deeper into the past of the Shetland Islands than anyone wants to go, casting a veil of suspicion and fear over the entire community. For the first time in years neighbours nervously lock their doors, whilst a killer lives on in their midst.



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

Faye 9379 1317 faye.findlay18@gmail.com
or Christine 9386 8919 christine@hornby.id.au

Out and About Group - May event

Take a walk around the Newport Lake. Bring your binoculars for some birdwatching. Check the Olive Press for full details of date and time to meet up. Out and About is a monthly social group for older, active women and men. We visit places of interest or meet up for lunch or coffee. New members always welcome. See notice in the Olive Press or contact Helen Rowe for further information about this month's activity. Ph. 0423 009 813 or email helen.rowe@rocketmail.com

Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Next Distribution Day - **Saturday 19th May** 10 am-12 noon.

New members welcome! We buy in bulk and you bring your re-usable containers to fill with the quantity you want.

Reasonable prices for products. We meet in the Olive Way space. Further information from Helen Rowe 0423 009 813

or Meredith Budge 0403 717 714

Church Council

'Church Council Red Faced After Documents Found in Cabinet'

The Brunswick Church Council has been embarrassed following revelations that top secret minutes documents were found in a local op-shop.

It appears that a filing cabinet had been donated to the Brunswick Savers store, still containing a number of highly classified reports detailing the contents of a recent Church Council meeting.

Local man, Alfonso Dapper, 26, couldn't believe his discovery. *'I bought the filing cabinet, hoping it would be perfect storage place for my collection of Madagascar funk records, but then I saw all these classified documents and thought, 'Jupiter's whistle, what have I got here?'*

According to the documents exclusively obtained by the Olive Branch, the Brunswick Church Council made the following decisions at their April meeting:

- Church Council adopted its goals for 2018, which include continuing to support and nurture the work of the committees, conduct a review of the Ministry of the Word, review the staff and remuneration structure, maintain a sustainable budget over the medium term, efficiently catalogue Council decisions, seek opportunities to engage and cooperate with the community, and maintain effective communication both to and from the congregation.
- We received and affirmed goals from the other committees.
- We amended our Safe Church policies to clarify the identity of 'Appointed Leaders', mandating that they hold valid Working with Children Cards and attend training every two years (see Helen's report).

- Following an exhaustive, but ultimately fruitless search for a replacement for Julie and Anika in our Children and Families Coordinator and Youth worker/Student House Coordinator roles, we have decided to seek an ordained placement through the Presbytery. We anticipate that we will probably need to offer a full-time position in order to attract an appropriate candidate. This will carry with it a higher level of cost, but we were agreed that Children and Youth ministry is an area we are eager to invest in, so as to build upon the brilliant work that Julie, Anika and Caitlin have done.
- We agreed to confirm the Youth Hall as the venue for our art programs, and to empower JAM to conduct a review of our partnership with Art Stop (focusing on the governance, accountability and structural basis of our relationship).
- We gratefully received a large bequest to fund operational costs in the Olive Way.

Council Chairperson Shawn Whelan denied that this embarrassing leak had put pressure on his leadership: *'Look, this is a stuff up, and believe me, heads will roll. But I am focused on leading a united team and delivering for the congregation. Ultimately, the only poll that counts is at the AGM.'*

A source close to the Chairperson spoke anonymously to Olive Branch: *'At the end of the day, minutes aren't the responsibility of the Chair. The Secretary is responsible for this mess. He has no choice but to resign.'*

The Secretary of the Church Council was unavailable for comment.

Daniel Broadstock

Property Committee

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

- The Property Committee is compiling all of the required documentation to seek Presbytery and Synod approval for the sheds to be built.
- Synod Annual Child Safety Check actions have been completed, with Food Co-op to updating their MSDSs.
- Replacement of a faulty transformer preventing the magnetic latches from operating in the church gathering place.
- Modified the cage to lock a BBQ in place.
- Drain cover (next to drive way) has broken and has been repaired.
- Signs created and mounted on walls and doors, see if you can identify them.
- Working bee was held on Sunday 22nd April '18. Items on the list were undertaken including: o) cleaning of intake filters for the church and vacuum cleaners, o) oiling hinges, o) tagging of the bench seats to retain, o) planting in various garden beds, o) pruning of the olive trees, o) church window hatches all closed, o) Nails punched in on the pews, o) faulty globe replaced above the font.
- Student House inspection was undertaken and maintenance items attended to. Obtaining quote for external painting.
- Magnetic latches of the two side doors are now operational again, replacement of faulty transformer.
- A congregation may be interested in the working screen that was removed from the worship space; the faulty screen has been taken to a local transfer station.

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

Repair the heater on the south wall in the west end of the hall. Investigating if the flame detection mechanism is clogged.

- The Property Committee to submit the required documentation to Presbytery and Synod for approval. Tony Urwin to then undertake the construction of the shed(s).
- Cause of the leaks in the church has been Investigated and identified. Laurie to organise a cherry picker to access the impacted area. Document the additional items that have been identified as requiring action. Then seek advice on the actions to be taken.
- Ascertain the service requirements of the dishwasher's chemical pump also the replacement of the pipes.

- Replacement of the rangehood at 1/278-280 Brunswick Road. Source the required spare parts and fit them.
- Gutters and down pipes to be inspected and cleaned
- Removal of the trees in the walkway pots after they lose their leaves.
- Engie to resolve the issues with the screens in the church; shadowing (left screen), incorrect aspect ratios, screen flickering.
- Source a replacement BBQ. A 4 burner BBQ is required due to the amount of food to be cooked at functions.
- Obtain quote(s) for the painting of the hall floor.

Ray Cameron

Worship Committee

For our opening worship Natalie Sims invited us to think about songs that remind us someone or a group of people that we no longer see or have passed on. Our responses included: May the feet of God walk with you, Be thou my vision, Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us, Trust and obey, Puff the magic dragon, Raindrops keep falling on my head and Morning town ride. She then asked us 'What is **the** song that makes you think of BUC?', to which we responded: God's mercy, Making things new, Nothing is lost on the breath of God, Our God who weeps, Take this space (written for the BUC post-renovation opening) and Canticle of the Turning. I wonder what your answers to these questions might be!!

We enjoyed reflecting on Holy Week worship and noted the following (among other comments):

- **Palm Sunday** - the effectiveness of using the Lenten Sounds in the telling the story, the fun of following the Anglican congregation with the donkey and appreciation of the Brunswick Baptist congregation returning to conclude worship with us sharing their theme song



- **Maundy Thursday** - we loved it, the service felt calm and prayerful, we loved multiple candles being put out during the Tenebrae part with voices coming from within the congregation



- **Good Friday** - Seven Words from the Cross was amazing, use of the images, moving curtain, the readings and songs, all created a space to experience the story of Christ's passion in a very beautiful way, everything was done 'as it should be'. We expressed our thanks to Ian Ferguson, Saide Cameron and Julia Potter for the choreography of the movements with the curtain.



- **Dawn Service** - was well attended, we appreciated Saide's telling of the story, we liked the movement from the Indigenous Garden to the Gathering Space.
- **Breakfast** - between the two Easter Day services was very enjoyable.
- **Easter Day** - the Gathering Space is getting very crowded for the opening of this service and we will explore other options next year. The use of Lenten sounds to retell the resurrection was effective again. We loved singing our Brunswick Alleluia and plan to use it during the season of Easter. We expressed our thanks to Valmai Brunlow and Jenny Hunter for providing the abundance of beautiful flowers for the Easter Garden.



- **Holy Communion** - we have celebrated in a big circle around the church twice now and have received positive feedback about this format. It was quite amazing on Easter Day to use all of the glasses in the trays. If you have any comments or feedback about the big circle celebration please let us know. We'll be celebrating in this way for a few months.

Other topics discussed included:

- Preparations for farewelling John on 22nd April
- Worship at camp with the theme 'Bearing Fruit'
- Planning for Pentecost Sunday, 20th May
- Installing Johnny's artwork on the wall in the chapel space beside the Tower room
- Planning for the new 'Community Scape Storage facility' - documentation is being prepared by the Property Committee for approval by Presbytery and Synod. Once this is finalised the new shed should be ready in 3-4 weeks.

- Inviting Phil Hudson, member of the Brunswick Baptist congregation and Love Makes a Way, to share his new songbook with us during worship
- A worship & prayer leader training session to be held on Wednesday 30th May

This coming month we will discuss the Pentecost season noting that Ian has other commitments including Assembly and personal leave over 6 Sundays in this season (two in each of June, July and August)

In June we will begin planning for the Pageant!! Many thanks to Caitlin Mullen-Beagley for her offer to direct the pageant again.



8/4 Easter 2 Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31 Daniel Broadstock told the children that he was 'a bit of an artist' and revealed his drawing of the church. He then invited the children and the rest of the congregation to identify some of the things that we do at church together with the qualities and activities of the early church described in the Acts reading. Julie McKinnon wrote each of these things on a sticky note and posted them all over Daniel's drawing. Daniel then revealed 'the Frozen-like twist' in his story - that in fact the church is the

people together, loving, telling stories, singing, selling the stuff that they don't need, sharing, participating, welcoming, caring, learning. That's what we try to do every week as a church together.



We welcomed Matt Julius as our preacher. Matt is a theological student at the Centre for Theology and Ministry. Matt began his sermon by reminding us of the season of Lent and Holy Week and invited us to explore the question 'What happens next?'. He went on to describe the events surrounding Jesus appearing to the disciples in the locked room. He commented on Rev. Dr. Sally Douglas' teachings about the association with Woman Wisdom and the Act of Creation. Reflecting on this he commented that 'Jesus has inaugurated a new creation in his death and resurrection' and so 'everything must be evaluated in this light'. Taking us then into an alternative interpretation of Thomas' response to Jesus' resurrection Matt reminded us that *Jesus offers us a scarred and broken body but one with life. Jesus' life, death and resurrection interrupts the normal order of things, all the assumptions we make about how the world works, how locked doors work. Jesus appearance interrupts how we gather together. Jesus proclaims a new vision of life and community that repeats/completes the old, a vision we see expressed in our reading from Acts 4 where the followers of Jesus share what they have in love for each other by meeting the needs of all.'* He spoke of the love between God and Jesus overcoming all the boundaries that separate us from God and reminded us that 'The resurrection does not easily erase the scars, it brings the scarred and broken bodies we bear into an irrevocable community of love. It calls us to hope, to be his new creation here and now, challenging the ways we gather and asking us to make them gatherings shaped by love.' Matt concluded 'The ongoing task of resurrection cannot be completely recorded or written down or captured. It is the eternal life of love that we are called to now and called to embrace each other with. And so we can proclaim that 'Christ is risen'. Hallelujah.



15/4 Easter 3 Luke 24:36b-48; 1 John 2:28-3:1-11 Ian told the children that he and Amelia had been think about being children of God, commenting that we are all children of God through baptism and God's love. Having talked about learning to be like Jesus by looking into the face of God which we do by looking into God's human face - Jesus and seeing the face of Jesus by looking into the faces of other people Ian invited us to play the mirroring game by mirroring beautiful gestures which became actions for the refrain to 'She comes sailing on the wind'. He commented that the movements are like *some of the things we see in Jesus – the peace, the compassion, the hope, the love, the cry for justice in the world, the joy in our hearts, the light that shines in the darkness, the call to follow on the way.* A recording of this refrain is available [here](#).



In his sermon Ian introduced us to the complexity of John's passage about being the children of God which includes *'a rant about sin and the devil'*. Ian commented that he rarely uses the 's-word' preferring to use other words which describe the *'corporate, universal, relational aspects of the s word rather than the things that everybody else in the whole world thinks we mean when we say sin'*. He offered us a list, contrasting sin and salvation, for example *'if sin is living in darkness, salvation is the shining of the light'*.

Ian went on to share a story from his childhood about losing his little brother's boomerang and the guilt and shame that he experienced over many years. He wondered where this had come from and if it was a wider cultural vibe in play at the time and now. Returning to John and his talk of being *'a child of the devil'* he explained that John is talking *'about being a child of God, being in relationship with God, being part of God's family like Christ – born of, shaped by and directed by love. ... one born of love and living in the sphere of love does not sin, cannot sin, because sinning means being out of relationship with God.'*

We learnt about the Catholic priest in the film 'Three Billboards outside Epping Missouri' and he the way in which he reminds us *'of the failures of our faith, the abuse done in the name of Christ'*. Ian commented on the call to *'embody right relationship'* compared with the church setting ourselves up to *'be arbiters of right relationship'*.

Ian concluded affirming that John is talking in relational terms - *Our hope John is saying is to be like Christ, in community, as family. In the future when Easter new life is the reality for the whole world. That's our hope and our challenge, the challenge of our faith is to become like him now, to live as that family of love, the children of God together here by the grace of God. Amen.*

22/4 Easter 4 John 10:11-21; 1 John 3:16-24 On this day we farewelled John Venning following his move to Berwick (see pages 4&5). Ian asked the children 'What do we know about sheep?' and 'What stories we know about sheep in the Bible'. The children told us that sheep say 'baa' (which we then all did together) and that sheep wear wool. We remembered the stories of the lost sheep and of course Jesus' birth in which the shepherds come with their sheep to see the baby Jesus. Ian said that John reminds us that we are loved by the Good Shepherd.

Ian invited us to *'spend some time together reflecting on 'one of the challenges of the Good Shepherd discourse in John 10'. Focussing in on 'the hired hands who leave the sheep and run away' Ian asked 'Who don't you trust?'. He commented that he doesn't really have enemies but Jesus certainly does.*

Taking us through the Gospel of John Ian identified Jesus' encounters with his enemies. He explained that the Good Shepherd discourse is *'a polemic, an attack on Christ's enemies and again and again John names them 'The Jews' and the consequences of doing so are unintentionally cataclysmic'*. He spoke about the call from some people for us to not read John's gospel any more saying that it is *'irremediably anti-Semitic'*. Showing us a brief movie clip Ian commented that it can't be because almost everyone in the Gospel of John is Jewish, in fact Jesus is Jewish. To help us understand why John names Jesus enemies as 'The Jews' he took us back to the time of the writing of this gospel, at the turn of the first century when those who confessed Jesus as Messiah were being excommunicated and marginalized, saying *John writes his gospel to help them deal with their own conflict and marginalization.*

Ian reminded us that *'context is everything'* and that in a time when Christians are the ruling majority the gospel becomes potentially dangerous. He concluded *'Seeing him (Jesus) as the marginalized other, even meeting him in that other, that changes everything'*. Having showed us images of Jesus from other cultures he prayed *'Meet us as you are Good Shepherd. Meet us in the other and help us to see you, to know you, to accept the challenge of openness, of unity, of love. Amen.*

29/4 Easter 5 John 15:1-8; 1 John 4:7-21 Kirsty Bennett spoke with the children about how bearing fruit as part of the vine means that we can change things and make a difference. She shared Vincent Lingari's story telling of his decision to speak to politicians to bring about change for the aboriginal people in the Northern Territory. As Helen read the story 'From little things big things grow' the congregation sang the chorus. Reminding the children that we say the Acknowledgment of Country every Sunday naming the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation on whose land we meet Kirsty said that this is one way we connect to Vincent's story. We can all bear fruit by making a difference.



We welcomed Sunny Chen as our preacher while Ian was away on camp. Sunny reflected on two elements of Jesus' teaching in John 15 - fruit and bearing fruit. He commented that the passage does not identify what the fruit is but wondered, given the textual context, if it might be referring to love. He went on to explain the use of the Greek word 'agape' and contrasted this with the Aramic word 'Raham', the connotation of which points to blood-bond. He said that if Jesus is speaking to the disciples in this, his first language, then he would be urging them love one another as a family. Sunny said this kind of love could be the fruit mentioned in John 15.

Commenting on 'bearing fruit' he shared the story of Martin Luther King who, 54 years ago, visited Berlin for one and a half days and preached on both sides of the Berlin Wall saying *'For here on either side of the wall are God's children, and no man-made barrier can obliterate that fact.* He concluded citing one of Martin Luther King's prayers which he said was a corporate prayer that *resonated in the hearts of people back in those days and contributed to the collapse of many visible or invisible divisions, including the Berlin Wall, when love finally united many people.* Sunny provided a summary of his sermon which is available [here](#).

Saide Cameron

Finance Committee

Congratulations go to Janet Watson Kruse for correct answers to our APRIL ALLITERATIVE QUIZ

The three questions and brief answers were:

1. Beethoven's bounty benefits BUC. How?
A: PROPERTY HIRE INCOME, with the Beethoven Festival in February
2. Little envelopes encourage largesse. When?
A: WEEKLY Sunday offerings, whether you attend worship or not.

Janet wins a prize of inestimable value, being larger than the face value of \$5, a voucher to purchase items from the next BUC Pop-Up Opp-Shop.

Next month: Graphs, data and text on Finance Stuff.

Meantime, if you have any questions, please contact anyone on the Finance Committee. We'll do our best to answer any and all questions.

Linda Wannan

3. Why does Discipleship and Education appear to be an "earner" early in the year?

A: The publication WLTTW ("With Love To the World") is paid by the church including GST; it is on-sold to readers excluding GST; the church as a NFP (not-for-profit) can claim the GST back. Early in the year, other expenses of D&E are small; nett effect, a surplus on what is normally an expense account.



> Preaching Plan

May 6	Ian Ferguson, Holy Communion	May 27	Ian Ferguson Trinity, Baptism	June 17	<i>To be advised</i>
May 13	Ian Ferguson	June 3	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion	June 24	Ian Ferguson Refugee Sunday
May 20	Ian Ferguson Pentecost	June 10	<i>To be advised</i>	July 1	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion

> 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
6/5 Easter 6	Acts 10:44-48	Ps 98	1 Jn 5:1-6	Jn 15:9-17	W
10/5 Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53	W
13/5 Easter 7	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Ps 1	1 Jn 5:9-13	Jn 17:6-19	W
20/5 Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek 37:1-14	Ps 104:24-34,35b	Rom 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-12	Jn 15:26-27 or 16:4b-15	R

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 the feast of Christ the King.

Date Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
27/5 Trinity	Is 6:1-8	Ps 29	Rom 8:12-17	Jn 3:1-17	W
3/6 Pentecost 2	1 Sm 3:1-10 (11-20)	Ps 139:1-6,13-18	2 Cor 4:5-12	Mk 2:23-3:6	G
10/6 Pentecost 3	1 Sm 8:4-11 (12-15)16-20(11:14-15)	Ps 138	2 Cor 4:13-5:1	Mk 3:20-35	G
17/6 Pentecost 4	1 Sm 15:34-16:13	Ps 20	2 Cor 5:6-10(11-13)14-17	Mk 4:26-34	G
24/6 Pentecost 5	1 Sm 17 :(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 or 1 Sm 17:57-18:5, 10-16	Ps 9:9-20 or Ps 133	2 Cor 6:1-13	Mk 4:35-41	G
22/6 UCA Anniversary 2	Chr 30:1-9	Ps 127	Eph 2:9-22	Jn 17:1-11	R

May Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 6 9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC Celebration of Anika's ministry & Café M'g Tea 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W'p	7	8 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Church Council	9 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10 10:00 – Olive Way	11	12
13 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 5:00 – Indonesian W'p 6:00 – Table Church	14	15 10:00 – Olive Way	16 8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Worship C'tee	17 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – JAM C'tee	18 7:30 – YUCY	19 10:00 – Food Co-op
Pentecost Sunday 20 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:30 – BUC Cycle 5:00 – Indonesian W'p	21	22 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Property C'tee	23 8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Book Group	24 10:00 – Olive Way	25 6:30 – MMM Dinners	26 6:30 – MMM Dinners
27 9:30 – Ian Ferguson Baptism 12:30 – MMM Lunches 5:00 – Indonesian W'p 6:00 – Table Church	28	29 10:00 – Olive Way	30 8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Worship Workshop	31 10:00 – Olive Way	June 1 7:30 – YUCY	2 12:00 – Pie Bake Up 2:30 – Coffee
3 8:15 – Meditation 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 10:45 – Uniting Appeal Stall 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W'p	4	5 10:00 – Olive Way 7:00 – Mulling	6 8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation	7 10:00 – Olive Way	8	9 12:00 – World Wide Knit in Public Day