

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

September 2018 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

## > Meditation

### Faith across cultures – a story from my recent holiday to Fiji

As Beth and I got on a small plane at Nadi Airport to fly to the Fijian island of Kadavu, a group of “missionaries” got on with us. They identified themselves as such with matching t-shirts announcing that they were part of a Methodist Missionary Society. They sat around me on the plane, and we struck up a conversation. They were Fijian Americans from California who were coming to Kadavu to do some work at a local boarding school and theological seminary.

Before leaving Australia I had been warned not to let on that I am an ordained minister as I might get asked to preach! However it seemed safe in this instance – they were going to a different part of the island to us, and not to tell them would seem odd in the circumstances. So I explained that I am a minister in the UCA. They knew the Uniting Church, in fact one of them has a sister-in-law who is an ordained UCA minister in NSW. We parted at the airstrip on Kadavu and went our separate ways. For us this meant a 45 minute boat ride to a resort accessible only by water.

Methodist Church in the centre at the highest point. The first house I passed had its door open and as I walked by it a voice called out from inside, “Hey Pastor!” It was the Californian missionaries from the plane. It turned out that they had finished at the school and had made their way to this village where one of them, a Methodist pastor himself, had grown up. My secret was out. I was introduced to the local Methodist minister, the most important person in the village alongside the Chief. He did invite me to preach at the upcoming Sunday service and to stay to lunch afterwards. I politely (I hope!) declined the offer to preach, but said that we looked forward to worshipping with them. It was explained to me (very helpfully by numerous locals) that I would be expected to respond to a formal welcome during the service.



Village children

The local village was a five minute boat ride from the resort. A few days after arriving, we visited the village for the first time. We were taken with other guests to a spectacular waterfall and we participated in a Kava Ceremony. As we walked into the village I was struck by the simplicity of the dwellings and the beauty of the surroundings – humble corrugated iron huts between mangroves and rainforest with a large



Two of the missionaries from the plane in the village

We arrived on Sunday morning for the 10am service not expecting it to start bang on time BUC style – we had some experience of “Fiji time” by that stage. The service eventually got underway at about 10:45 after three rounds of drumming on Fijian log drums called people to the church. We were shown to a seat at the front. The village minister was away for the weekend at the Methodist Conference in Suva so the service was led by two young lay preachers. Not surprisingly, it was all in Fijian, the only concession to non-native speakers being the ceremonial welcome given to us. I had prepared a response referencing a number of bible passages – my instinct

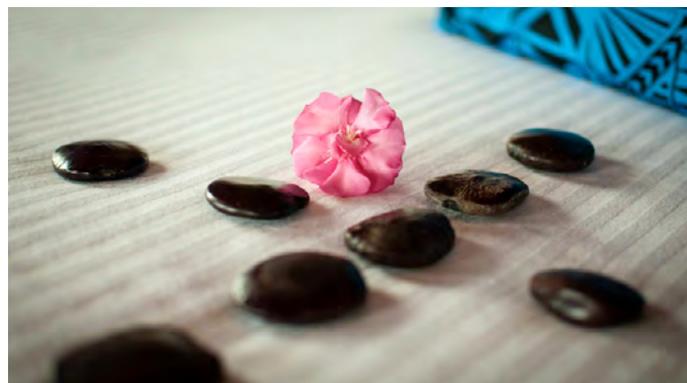
was good, the welcome itself was also liberally sprinkled with biblical references. During my response there were a number of spontaneous “Vinakas” (thank-yous). I even got a laugh with a reference to Jesus the Way, which I’d always interpreted as being like a road to follow, but since their part of the island has no roads, his way must be through the sea like God in Psalm 77:19. As I finished speaking their choir burst into song. I had been looking forward to hearing their singing and it exceeded my expectations – unaccompanied harmonies that moved me to tears with their beauty and power.

There were some things about the service that pushed me outside my cultural comfort zone. The tone of the prayers and the preaching was strange to me – it sounded harsh and hectoring although I couldn’t understand the words. And the children had to sit through the hour and half of the service together up the front of the church in full view of the congregation with no age appropriate activities – an adult supervisor kept them in check with a stick and some strategically applied ear twisting.



Lunch after worship with the lay preachers

After the service we were fed with fish straight off the reef, coconut from the palms around, and greens and taro from their fields – a meal to remember. Much of the dinner conversation was about the impact of climate change on their village. They asked for help raising funds to build a sea wall to protect them from rising tides. Their longer term plan is to relocate the village to higher ground.



Sunday in the minister’s room at the resort

After declining another invitation to preach at their afternoon service (to which all the same people would come) we returned to the resort, walking along the mudflats as the tide was low. When we got back to our room, our bed had been made up with a cross of seed-pods.

Ian Ferguson

## > Index

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Meditation                           | 9. JAM News - Olive Way, FUNdraising                    | 15. Reports: Finance, Worship                     |
| 2. Meditation, Happy Birthday           | 10. JAM News - SROC, BUC Arts                           | 16. Reports: Worship                              |
| 3. Worship Calendar, Special Events     | 11. JAM News - BUC Arts, Pick my project                | 17. Reports: Worship                              |
| 4. Sharing our Faith, Culture of Safety | 12. Worship News, Congregational Meeting                | 18. Reports: Worship, Property                    |
| 5. Culture of Safety                    | 13. Regular Events                                      | 19. Reports: Property, Preaching Plan, Lectionary |
| 6. Pastoral Care News                   | 14. Reports: Church Council, Finance - Income Statement | 20. Diary   |
| 7. Pastoral Care News, D& E News        |   |   |
| 8. JAM News - Committee                 |   |   |

## > Happy Birthday

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



## > Worship Calendar

### September

We will engage with the lectionary readings and consider what they offer us around the theme of how our faith enables us to 'look at things differently'.

During worship on **16th September** we will offer a **Welcoming Ceremony**. This will be an opportunity for people who are new



to the congregation to name Brunswick UC as their spiritual home. After people have shared their stories these questions are asked:

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

*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?"

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

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



We worship twice on **30th September**. The **9:30 morning service** will have a **reflective shape** and feel. Morning Tea will not be provided. We will join the **Brunswick Indonesian congregation** in the afternoon for **worship at 5** and for the meal after worship.

## > Special Events

Save these dates for **September** to **November**

- **6th September** - [Quirky Circus](#)  
*JAM - SROC, p 10*
- **9th September** - [BUC Cycle](#)  
*Regular Events, p 12*
- **14th-16th September** - [SSS Dinners & Lunch](#)  
*Pastoral Care News, p 7*
- **16th September** - [Welcoming Ceremony](#)  
*Worship Calendar, p 3*
- **23rd September** - My Favourite Cake - FUNdraising stall after worship, supporting the World Council of Churches,  
*JAM - FUNdraising News, p 9*
- **30th September** - 9:30am Reflective Service, and later 5:00 pm Combined BIUC service, *Worship Calendar, p 3*
- **Sundays** beginning **30th September** - Collage series,  
*JAM - BUC Arts News, p 11*

### October

Responding to the **series reflecting on death** being offered by the Discipleship & Education series Ian will engage with the theme during worship on one or more of the **Sundays in October**.

We are also looking forward to two big blessings

- **Blessing the Animals** on **Sunday 14th October** - Bring your pet(s) or a photo if that's easier/safer to worship for a special blessing. We offer this blessing in response to the Feast of St. Francis of Assis (4/10).



- **Blessing the Bikes** on **Sunday 28th October** - Ride (or walk) to worship if you can. We gather out on the steps after worship to have our non-motorised wheeled transport blessed. This is one small way of showing our care and respect for the environment.



**After worship** you are invited to ride or simply come along to Temple Park, Grey St. Brunswick where the Community Team will host our annual **Spring Picnic**. Bring your own lunch or something to share. A bike ride will follow.

Join us for another **Singalong** on **14th October** from 1-3pm with afternoon tea. We'll be learning and singing songs in preparation for Advent. If you have any requests or suggestions please contact Natalie Sims, 0457 054 807.



- **Thursdays in October** - [D&E series reflecting on Death](#)  
*D&E News, p 7*
- **7th October** - Cafe Style Morning Tea & Appreciative Enquiry (Community), *PC Community News, p 7*
- **14th October** - [Blessing the Animals](#)  
*Worship Calendar, p 3*
- **14th October** - [Sunday Singalong](#) - preparing for Advent  
*Worship Calendar, p 3*
- **21st October** - PIEN Speaking Tour & Lunch  
*JAM News, p 8, PC Community News, p 7*
- **28th October** - [Blessing the Bikes](#) & Spring Picnic  
*Worship Calendar, p 3, PC Community News, p 7*
- **11th November** - Backyard Band Party  
*JAM - FUNdraising News, p 9*

## > Sharing our Faith

### Assembly 2018

The recent triennial meeting of the Uniting Church Assembly is already best known, and is likely to be forever known, as the Assembly at which the Uniting Church formally decided to accept Same-Sex Marriage. Obscured by this is the fact that the Assembly dealt with many other significant issues, including a decision to acknowledge First Peoples' sovereignty, to develop a new statement on climate change, and then a myriad of other matters which are the designated responsibility of the Assembly. And as well as having this meeting presided over by only a second woman President (Dr. Deirdre Palmer), the



Assembly elected Sharon Hollis as its President-elect. Sharon will be the first ordained woman to be President and only the third Victorian ever to hold the office.

As it happens, this was the first time I had attended Assembly as a member. I reflected much during the meeting and since on the nature of this particular decision-making body in the UCA. The membership is about 300 people drawn from all the Synods and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. Needless to say it was a very mixed group. It was clear from the outset that we came with a diverse range of hopes and expectations, and various levels of trust in both in each other and in the meeting.

My sense was that the average age of the membership was noticeably lower than that of a Vic/Tas Synod meeting. The contribution from many of our younger members was very strong and conspicuous. They are not the church of the future, they are already leaders of the church and they are leading well. Also notable was the contribution of women (especially in the form of strong speeches) from the Indigenous and culturally-diverse communities.

## > Culture of Safety

### Safe Church Training

Our two Safe Church Training workshops were well attended and appreciated by participants. On 11 August there were 24 participants (16 BUC and 6 other congregations) and on 25th August 15 BUC folk and one from another congregation.

The first workshop, led by guest facilitator Tony Duncan, covered Basic Safe Church Awareness for leaders and volunteers who had not previously received the training. For the second workshop we tried a new innovative approach with people undertaking their two-year repeat training. Janet Watson-Kruse

The debate concerning the proposal to endorse Same-Sex Marriage was difficult, to say the least. Much of it was conducted in private session. The final position – the adoption of two distinct definitions of marriage – reflected the divided mind of the meeting, but also the clear majority view that it was right to accept Same Sex Marriage as an authentically Christian practice. For many this was a moment of relief, joy and thanksgiving. For others, it was a moment of sadness, pain and despair. Whilst the reaction to this decision in this Synod has been largely positive, other parts of the UCA have reacted with anger and are pursuing attempts to have the matter reconsidered. The threshold for doing so is very high. This decision is here to stay. What is often forgotten in such protests is that for all those who are considering leaving the UCA, many are finding their way into the UCA precisely because of its position on Same-Sex Marriage.

The decision-making process of the UCA is often perceived as cumbersome and tedious. Some UC members believe that the Assembly should be a more representative body. But this raises the question of how we actually discern the will of God. Former UCA President D'Arcy Wood once wrote the following:

*"The Uniting Church is not a democracy, because a democracy is a form in which the people as a whole rule. The Uniting Church does not aim to represent the will of the people on any given issue, but to seek the will of God by prayer and by consulting together in the light of the Word of God."*

Discern the will of God is what the recent Assembly sought to do. Distinguishing between the 'will of the people' and the 'will of God' is often very hard work. It requires a particular discipline and even a particular kind of spirituality. For me, as I'm sure it was for many others, the Assembly meeting was a time to learn and practice that discipline.

**Geoff Thompson**

[Read more Assembly News here](#)

and her actor friend Andi Snelling assisted our learning through scenarios acted out as role plays. Feedback from each of the workshops indicates that people went away informed about the requirements for keeping children safe in our congregation, experienced some common dilemmas through role plays and learned how to report any concerns about the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our community.

Our thanks to Meg Orton and Claire Foley for their thoughtful reports, below.

**Helen Rowe**

## Culture of Safety Training - Experiential



### Ensuring our Church is safe for children and vulnerable adults

There was no chance to fall asleep!

Picture this:

- a brilliant warm Saturday afternoon in Brunswick;
- a chilly Olive Way space with no warmth from that sun;
- around 19 dedicated members of the Uniting Church, mostly from Brunswick UC, came together to explore the topic of what makes a safe church.

#### Why?

- To understand and learn, in a practical way, what it means to have Brunswick Uniting Church a safe church; and
- To create a culture that is a positive reinforcement of the safe church policy – focused on the fantastic atmosphere that inclusivity and love brings to all involved.

#### How?

Janet Watson Kruse led our workshop enabling us all to discuss the topic in depth.

Then onto roll-play with the brilliant assistance of Andi, an actor, engaging with various participants.

We work-shopped a number of scenarios and this enabled us to put theory into practice. Everyone was engaged and kept on our toes with challenging situations. It really brought home to us how difficult it can be to be in a space of listening to someone trying to discuss a situation that is clearly disturbing.

It was challenging and also very engaging with everyone involved in discussion and suggesting ways for our 'actors' to work through situations.



Great question - Is all the effort that is involved worthwhile?

The answer is clearly yes with one parent pointing out that it provides great peace of mind to know that BUC is serious and dedicated about ensuring people who work with children and vulnerable adults at BUC are qualified to do so.

There were some key ideas that we discussed at length and I think this sums it up:

**Brunswick Uniting Church is about creating a space where our children and vulnerable adults feel safe.**

Claire Foley, 25 August 2018

"All conversations would be so much easier if we got to practice them like this" or so said one of the participants at Saturday's Culture of Safety Training.

If you have ever been to a training session that involved role play you are probably heading out the door now, at the very thought of this. But the afternoon workshop facilitated by Janet Watson Kruse and supported by her actor colleague Andi Snelling was so compelling even people who had declared that they had to leave early were still there well after finishing time.

Essentially we got to "practice" what we would say when faced with a range of "difficult conversations". With Andi as the conversation partner we experimented with how we might respond when someone told us about a suspicion of inappropriate behaviour or how we might talk with a youth group member anxious about what was going on for her friend. Sometimes the person in the participant's chair could not even start the conversation and we were able to offer options for ways to go about it. Or try out the approach that felt so uncomfortable at first that we were not even brave enough to go there. How do you ask a teenager if her friend is being abused? What would you say to someone who feels that the whole Safe Church process is an unnecessary complication or "bureaucratic overkill".

This was no boring afternoon of PowerPoint and lectures. This was very hands on and practical. I learnt lots. Although Janet works as a facilitator and trainer in corporate and healthcare settings, she said that it was the first time she has worked with this Culture of Safety material. I would love to do more of this.

Meg Orton



## Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

If any member of the congregation – young or older has concerns about the safety of our children, in particular relation to child sexual abuse, or the safety of vulnerable adults, you may speak to Helen Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Culture of Safety Concerns Person appointed by Church Council. Brunswick Uniting Church has a process for following up any concerns raised. Please contact Helen in person or by telephone on mobile number 0423 009 813.

## > Pastoral Care News

### Committee

All the Pastoral Care teams met together 22 August at the Manse for a shared meal and an interactive evening of learning. These get-togethers are important for helping us grow as pastoral carers, learning more about each other and helping in consolidating our individual teams as pastoral carers into a whole.

We started the evening with a game – Speed Relating! – where in pairs we told each other a story of when we were taken out of our comfort zone and how we felt about it. After two minutes the pairs changed and told the new person the same story. This was repeated until the original pair met up. It was an interesting time hearing other people’s stories, learning something of each other and pondering over our own stories told many times.

For the main part of the evening, Helen Rowe had been invited to talk to us about the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course and what learnings we could apply to the Pastoral Care we offer at Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC). After describing the general format of the course, Helen took us through different types of conversations that we can have with each other. These included general chit-chat through to deeper, more meaningful conversations and the appropriateness of each depending on the setting. Ian also offered a Theological reflection on one of the conversation examples.

The reflective process in CPE is something which we as pastoral carers can gain from. It relates to reflecting on our encounters with others and can include journaling and reflecting on such things as:

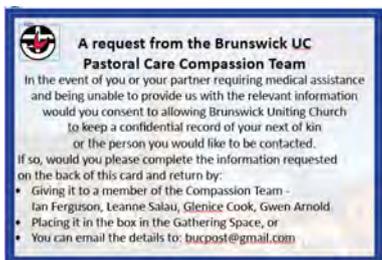
- What did you observe during the encounter?
- What feelings were you experiencing at this point?
- What response did you have at each point?
- What words or images come to mind as you reflect further on the encounter?
- How is this person’s story resonating with your own story?
- What concepts come to mind after reflecting on this encounter?
- Write a theological reflection if you have one
- How can you adapt what you have learned (including about yourself)?

Finally, it was once again emphasised that listening skills and confidentiality of a pastoral conversation are key components.

These kinds of learning experiences which are shared and interactive, can renew our energies in what we offer to the congregation at BUC for the Ministries of Hospitality to newcomers, Compassion to those in need and in building Community.

**Jane Allardice**

### Compassion



The Compassion Team is compiling a voluntary list of contact numbers for members in case of an emergency. Cards will be available from this week.

Please speak to Glenice or Ian if you have any questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

We offer our love, prayers and support to Christine & Peter Hornby following the death of Christine’s sister Lyn (6/8) and to Andrea & Laurence and Hannah Alvis following the death of Andrea’s father Malcolm (7/8).

Gwenda Booth, a long time member of the former South-West Brunswick congregation, passed away 27/8. We will share her story next month.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Lois, Jess and Brydie Fitzgerald, also former members of the SWB congregation, following the death of Lois’ husband Garry, aka Fitz, (29/8).

\*\*\*\*\*

And finally we offer a joyful welcome to celebrate the birth of Sofia Martina, daughter born to Tess Alston & Joel Hallinan on 18th August, little sister to Rafael.



## Community



The Community Team hosted **lunch at Cafe Marcella** after worship on **26th August**. We (18 people) had a lovely time chatting and eating delicious food. There will definitely be a repeat of this way of sharing community next term.



The big event for September is **Spectacularly Satiating September Dinners & Sunday lunch** over the weekend of **14th-16th September**. Check out the [event invitation](#) and fill in the [response form](#). Details have also been emailed separately; paper copies will be available at church. All you need to do is tell us your preferences for meals and what you want to contribute to the meal. Please RSVP by Monday 10th September. If you have any questions please contact Saide Cameron, 0407 096 743. The meals are a wonderful way to spend time, share a meal and get to know people in our congregation just a little better.

**October** is shaping up to be a month of gatherings.

- During **Cafe Style Morning Tea** after worship on **7th October** you are invited to participate in an '**Appreciative Enquiry**'. This will be an opportunity for our team to investigate and analyse our group life and opportunities for connectedness in the congregation. Save the date now so you can stay on and participate.
- After worship on **21st October** we'll be hosting **lunch** as part of the **Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network Speaking tour** (see JAM News for all the details). RSVP closer to the time to help us cater for the pastries and fruit platter menu.
- We finish the month off with a **Spring Picnic** after worship on **28th October** (see Worship Calendar for news about Blessing the Bikes). Ride your bikes, walk or drive to Temple Park, Gray St., Brunswick. Bring food and drink to share. After the picnic the BUC Cycle group will head off on a leisurely Sunday afternoon ride. Come along and join in the all the fun of an afternoon in (hopefully) Spring sunshine.



If you have questions about any of these events or activities please contact Saide Cameron, 0407 096 743.

## Hospitality, Compassion & Community

If you are new or newish and wish to make yourself known to us or become more engaged with the activities and life at BUC, one of the **Hospitality team** would love to assist you - Ian Ferguson, Jane Allardice, Ray Cameron, Sheila Calwell, Graham Lawrence, Steph Gesling, Michael Rigby.

If you need assistance, are going through a difficult time or wish to be either prayed for, or be one of the people praying, please contact one of the **Compassion team** - Ian Ferguson, Leanne Salau, Glenice Cook, Gwen Arnold

If you wish to be involved in the various activities in helping build Community at BUC, the **Community team** would love to hear from you – Saide Cameron, Ian Ferguson, Tess Alston, Karlien Kok, Kristin Flint

## > Discipleship & Education News



### A series reflecting on death

The committee invites you to save Thursdays in October ...

- **4th October** - Death over Dinner, a formal dinner and discussion program
- **11th October** - Voluntary Assisted Dying Panel discussion about the legislation, practical and ethical issues
- **18th October** - Advanced Care Planning workshop. Practical "how to" advice on the processes
- **25th October** - Grief and loss, an experiential workshop

## > Justice & Mission News

### From the committee

#### The Olive Way

- We reviewed the Congregational Meeting **Kitchen Renovation Project** presentation and noted our appreciation of people's interest and responses to the report prepared by Belinda Sealle from Alan Kong Architects.
- We also offer our thanks to Olivia Potter for her work and drawings that helped to spark conversation around the project.
- The **Olive Way Review**, led by Tim Budge, is well underway. See Peter Blair's story - the process is amazing. We are grateful to Tim for his leadership of the review and to Richard Arnold for his support of the process.
- The Church Council affirmed in principle '*that the OW Co-ordinator role should become a Pastor Role*'. Kirsty Bennett, Richard Arnold and Shawn Whelan have committed many hours to reviewing the role and developing a Position Description that fully captures the complexity, depth and evolution of the role over recent years. The PD clearly outlines the theological, pastoral and visionary leadership qualities required for an **Olive Way Pastor**. Thank you to Church Council and especially to Kirsty, Richard and Shawn.
- Richard will continue in the role of Chair of the **Olive Way Steering Group** for the first six months of next year while we build the membership of the group.

#### BUC Arts

- We received the report from the **Art Stop Review Team** at a special meeting. We have discussed the proposals offered and have invited the BUCArts committee to our September meeting to present our recommendation for a way forward. Our recommendation(s) will then be presented to the October Council meeting.
- The **Art for the Heart group** created three beautiful works which have been contributed to the exhibition. Thank you to Ann Soo and Leanne Salau for their co-ordination of these workshops and to Priscilla Manthey for her expert creative leadership. See *BUCArts News*
- The **Olive Pesto Group** meets monthly and is growing in numbers with many people from beyond our congregation coming along to create together and share fellowship. See their [August newsletter here](#).

#### FUNdraising

- We acknowledged the two big FUNdraising events for the year Trivia Night (Olive Way) and Bush Dance (ASWC) as being highly successful both as FUNdraisers and community events. However we noted the work of organizing and running them is taken on mostly by Saide Cameron and Alistair Hunter.

We will be recommending to Church Council that we take a rest from big events in 2019.

- We encourage you to check out the details for the September Cake Stall with a Difference in FUNdraising News. Get involved and support the World Council of Churches work in continuing to be a bold witness to the things that make for a just peace and focus on Christian service to the world's needful. You can also make a personal donation [here](#).

#### Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre

- Saide will meet with Andi Jones to discuss projects to be supported by the proceeds of our recent FUNdraising event.
- We provided a scholarship to Hamid, an asylum seeker, to pay his registration fees enabling him to work as an interpreter. He responded '*I would like to thank you and all the staff in the church for helping me out. I am truly grateful for all your help. God bless all of you. Warm regards. Hamid*'

**Food Co-op** The Food Co-op AGM was held recently at which Abi's position as Purchasing Officer was affirmed to continue with extra responsibilities to be added. Her pay is covered by membership fees and increasing membership.

**Pick my Project - Contemplative Garden** It was very exciting to be included on the list of projects for the Brunswick area. We acknowledge that signing up to vote is not exactly straightforward however we do encourage you to make the time to vote. [All the details are available here](#). Please encourage other people you know in our area to hop on and vote for us as well.

**Tower Room Window display** The Church Council (thank you Shawn Whelan and Steph Gesling) have set up a display reflecting our response to the [Assembly decision on marriage equality](#). Out of respect for the Brunswick Indonesian UC congregation the window is closed on Sunday afternoon. It is then reopened on Tuesday morning.

**We Rise for Climate** We will be participating in the rally being held on **Friday 6th September**, 6pm at the State Library.

**Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network Speaking Tour** Last year our Glitter Balls & Big Hair FUNdraising event during the World Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel raised \$6,446.15, enabling us to be Foundation sponsors for the tour.

We are looking forward to welcoming Areej Masoud to worship on **21st October**. Areej a Palestinian Christian born in Bethlehem who lives within minutes from the birthplace of Jesus. She works as the Development and Communications Department Coordinator at Bethlehem Bible College.

After worship Areej will speak with us on the topic '[Any hope for Palestine now, or ever?](#)' Please stay to listen and enjoy lunch.

Saide Cameron

## Olive Way

As many of you know, I didn't end up going in for surgery as scheduled in August. After having put everything in place with regards to my leave and making sure all the pieces were in place, I got to the hospital in Moorabbin all ready to, gowned up and sitting waiting on my bed. After about 15 minutes of anxious waiting the surgeon popped his head in and told me, rather gravely, that there was the possibility I wouldn't see the inside of the theatre that day as the surgeons were running out of time due to complications in the previous op. Needless to say that did not put my already anxious mind at ease. Then, about an hour later, the theatre nurse came and told me that it wasn't happening that day. I felt a flood of relief, but also annoyance given all that I'd put in place to be able to take my leave of Olive Way.

I must say that it seemed fortuitous, a divine intervention perhaps, that I was able to be present at Olive Way over the past couple of weeks. As some of you know, we are currently undertaking our tri-annual review, conducted by the multi-talented Tim Budge. Tim's approach is unique, he has asked Olive Way guests to help form, and ask the questions of other guests, looking particularly at the stories that emerge of people's experience at Olive Way. In order to get people involved we have printed off flyers and notices inviting guests' participation. As people have seen the flyers and the notices more and more people have pulled me aside to 'have a word' with me and share their experiences.

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of the review, and Tim's approach to it, has been the review team. We began with a handful of Olive Way regulars, and we have been steadily adding to their number. It has been quite special to watch these people grow in confidence, but also to grow in their ownership of what goes on at Olive Way. This has been what we hoped for from the beginning.

We expected numbers to go up and down. We tried to make sure that we had a good balance of genders, however, some of the women have been less regular, and therefore, harder to get commitments from. Last Tuesday Tim joined the review team again to check in with our progress. One of the regular women joined us too, one I had not thought to ask, but she has exceeded expectations, conducting several interviews already and really taking ownership of the process.

I have felt proud to see the way our people have gone about it. We look forward to seeing the results in the coming month and we are grateful for Tim's efforts. There is much we will learn from the feedback that has been offered, and will no doubt help make Olive Way a positive and enriching experience for all who come.

Peter Blair, Olive Way Coordinator

## FUNdraising News

### Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre

FUNdraising for the ASWC continued for a couple of weeks after the Bush Dance with Helen Burnham's Pop-up Op Shop. The final outcome, a combination of dancing, silent auction, sausage sizzle, Op-Shop and preserves, is approximately \$4,500. Kate Kirkwood and Sharni McKinnon donated a further \$5,000 from the Brooch Lovers Big Day Out. We are looking forward to working with the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre to ensure that these funds are used to support enrichment programs and activities for asylum seekers.

### World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel

An after worship stall for **on 23rd September** will support the work of the [World Council of Churches](#). The FUNdraising Team invites you to make and donate your favourite cake, slice or biscuits, write a story about why it is your favourite and then buy another person's contribution to take home. See the [attached document](#) for all the details. Please email [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com) so that we know how many contributions we will be getting. The more contributions we have, the more options there are to choose from on the day. And, of course, please pray for peace as you bake and create. You can also make a [personal donation](#).

### Olive Arts Collective

Do you want to dance?? Save the date for a **Backyard Band party on 11th November, 2-6pm** with our very own and entirely fabulous covers band 'Terry Towelling and the Tank Tops'. Saide Cameron and friends Trish Thompson and Kylie Murphy are co-hosting an afternoon of dancing in Trish's backyard, 8 Winifred St., Northcote. (Trish and Kylie support all our big FUNdraising events and look forward to sharing this special afternoon with our congregation.) More details next month but meanwhile - SAVE THE DATE - and be ready to support the Olive Arts Collective with your donations.

### Christmas Bowl Appeal

Our annual abundantly fabulous and very Christmassy stalls will be held after worship on the **first two Sundays in December**. The Olive Pesto group will be creating all sorts of wonderful items for us to buy including Christmas decorations, table runners and knitted nativity sets. More details next month.



Saide Cameron



## Sydney Road Opera Company

Take a lunch break on **Thursday 6th September** and head on up, down or over to the BUC Hall at midday for an unforgettable 40 minutes of entertainment.

SROC is our very own Sydney Rd. Opera Company. Olive Way participants work with professional actor Damian Coleridge on Thursdays to share stories and draw on their life experiences to create performances.

[Quirky Circus](#) is a circus like no other. The show must go on in the face of disaster and does! Featuring a line-up of characters never seen before.

With a dozen songs, some wonderful musicians, a dance or two and you!

Be there if you can, the bigger the audience, the more fun for everyone!!



## BUC Arts News

### Art for the Heart

Over four weeks in August, we enjoyed the sun bathed light and warmth of the Youth Hall to create three collage artworks for Art for the Heart exhibition. This year, the event is held at the Meat Market Stables in North Melbourne from **October 6th to October 11th**. It is a unique art exhibition, in that all contributions carry personal messages of love, loss and hope. The focus is not solely on product as the process is one of remembering, connection, honouring and healing through making art.

All art forms are accepted and this year, we chose to use collage and 'upcycle' old magazines and scrap papers to create intuitively aesthetic pieces together as a small group and in community. There was no intentional structure and we worked in a free form fashion allowing each other space and for the images lead our artmaking.

The works are literally and figuratively multi-layered; dense in image and unspoken emotion. One work named In the Light and Shade features a poignant and moving poem by Leanne Salau which is central to the work. Each viewer will see something different in the works and perhaps find some meaning and insight. Ultimately, they are expressive works of the many hands involved.

It was a joy to share these works with the congregation at morning tea and to request ideas for a title for one of the works.

Here are the final titles and the Artist Statement (written by Jane Allardice) accompanying the three pieces for exhibition at Meat Market Stables in October.

**Titles:** Ways of Remembering, Tell Me Your Story and In the Light and Shade.

**Artists' Statement:** Brunswick Uniting Church uses art in its many varied forms to enable people to express themselves, their feelings and their experiences in a safe and meaningful environment. We make art collaboratively or as a group working on individual pieces. The set of these three artworks was a collaborative and free form collage project where participants selected pictures to express feelings of loss, memory and hope. The themes are represented in the titles.

Thank you to so many people who came along to the space of reflection and art making whether it was for one session or for all. A shout out to everyone who contributed a title by reflecting on the piece and finding words for a description. It made a difference.

In conclusion, the works will be for sale with all proceeds going to Uniting Vic Tas.

**Ann Soo**

*From the website-*

Grief can be an isolating experience and its expression can be unintentionally silenced by well-meaning people saying it's time to get over it. Art for the Heart is a way to creatively express what grief is all about by using silent but powerful expression through art, craft and writing.

The work may be an act of honouring ourselves or what has been lost from our lives. The pieces in this exhibition are not about artistic merit but about living from your heart.

Works can also be donated for a silent auction to raise funds for Uniting Vic.Tas.

Dates – **October 6th – 11th**

Location – Meat Market - 3, Blackwood street North Melbourne.  
Meat Market Stables – 2, Wreckyn Street, North Melbourne

Opening hours – 9am – 5pm. This event is free and open to the public. No bookings necessary. It is wheelchair accessible, step free access and toilet accessible.

Please contact or see Ann Soo if interested – 0422 842 244 or [annsoo11@tpg.com.au](mailto:annsoo11@tpg.com.au)

## More than Cut & Paste

**Collage** – techniques and skills training with Priscilla Manthey and Ann Soo

Shut down your computer! Get back to cutting with scissors and pull out the paste!

Discover collage, learn its history, experiment with papers and themes from nature and more!!

**How?** We are offering a safe and comfortable space for those interested to learn and further develop the technique of collage in a supportive group setting.

**When?** The workshops will be run over a six-week period from late September through to November after worship on the following dates: 30/9, 14/10, 28/10, 4/11, 11/11 and 18/11.

**Where?** The workshops will take place in the Youth Hall from 11am – 1.30pm on the dates listed above. All are welcome to the workshops and there is no cost involved. Each session will have a focal point or theme. Participants are welcome to create individual works or collaborative pieces.

No previous skill is required. There is no need to book for the workshops but please let us know if you are interested. Please contact Ann Soo [annsoo11@tpg.com.au](mailto:annsoo11@tpg.com.au) or Priscilla Manthey [priscillamanthey@gmail.com](mailto:priscillamanthey@gmail.com) for more information.

Come and join us. All are welcome!!

### With Who?

- Priscilla Manthey is a trained artist and art teacher from the Camberwell and Slade School of art in London. She has 10 years of teaching experience at Enfield College in art (TAFE equivalent in the UK). Her experience and skills in collage will be shared with participants including use of colour, tone and shape, creating aesthetic through to framing the work.
- Ann Soo is an untrained curious art maker, social worker and transpersonal art therapist who believes in facilitating gentle and safe spaces where everyone can feel inspired for creativity to emerge. Ann will co-ordinate this event.



## Pick my Project - Contemplative Garden

Our project will redevelop the currently unused space in front of the youth hall on Merri St. into a [Contemplative garden, sculpture and mural](#) opening up the space for meditation and community interaction.

Our new shed system, with three compartments will provide storage for larger BUC items (including the stage built by Wayne Matthews), BUC Arts & ArtStop programs and the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre, replacing the small garden shed along the east side of the garden. We hope that the shed project will be completed by the end of November.

The meditative garden will provide a quiet and beautiful space for personal prayer and reflection for the public, as well as for the congregation, participants of our Olive Way Community Hospitality Program, and other groups who use our premises e.g. Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre, (ASWC) Tai Chi Group, community choirs, etc.

The garden will be enhanced by sculptures and a mural (on the wall of the new sheds) created by the Olive Arts Collective and ASWC members. This project reflects our values of inclusivity, diversity, community participation, celebration of the environment and reaching out to our neighbours.

Our project will offer the whole community a quiet place to sit in a lovely garden, and contemplate on our mural and sculptures. Located just off the bustling Sydney Road, it will be a space of beauty, inclusivity and welcome, opening up what has been a fenced-off church yard for the benefit of all.

Please vote today, encourage everyone you know who live within 5km of Brunswick to vote. See details on [how to vote here](#).



## > Worship News

### August Singalong

At our Singalong on **12th August** a small group of liturgists and musicians enjoyed learning and singing a range of new songs that Natalie Sims has listed on her blog Singing from the Lectionary for the coming months. Natalie started the blog 10 years ago (on the 1st June) for our congregation and over time more and more people started using it. Natalie now counts 6,000 readers per month locally, nationally and internationally with about 2,000 of them being regulars. It's an amazing resource, such a generous gift and a blessing to many worship leaders and congregations.



Anyway keep your ears open for some of these songs and enjoying singing them over the next few weeks or so: Sing, sing with me, May our lives and prayers be one, May God who creates you, God is passionate life, May the anger of Christ be mine, Jubilate Servite, Shalom, shalom the peace of God be here, Christ before me, Pure Love. We've actually already sung a few. Save the date for the next Singalong on 14th October - we'll be learning and singing songs in preparation for Advent.

### Student House Program Farewell

Later during the service we farewelled Tabetha Roberts and Peter Morley (in absentia) from the Student House program. Tabetha is moving to Brisbane because she has been accepted into a nursing course there. Tabitha has been in the house for 2 years and has contributed behind the scenes to our Finance ministry. Peter has been in the SHP for about 18 months and has been a youth leader and has brought great energy and enthusiasm to the Student House. Brianna shared that Peter was always gentle and affirming of the young people coming along to YUCY. Peter is returning home to live with his family in Ballarat.



Ian offered prayers and blessings to both Tabitha and Peter as they moved on to new challenges, gifts and wonders, that the Spirit would be with them strengthening them with love to guide and protect them. We stood and blessed Tabitha and Peter singing 'For you deep stillness'.



Saide Cameron

## > Congregational Meeting

The Justice & Mission Committee requested that a Congregational Meeting be held in order to share the Olive Way Kitchen Report. The meeting was attended by 37 people and we also welcomed Belinda Sealle from Allen Kong Architect.

Daniel Broadstock, Chair of the congregation welcomed everyone to the meeting after worship on 5th August and affirmed our Acknowledgement of Country. Ian Ferguson opened the meeting in prayer.

#### Olive Way Kitchen project

Richard Arnold, Chair of the Olive Way Steering Group outlined the steps leading to the JAM committee's engagement of an external architect to conduct the consultation and prepare a report with recommendations.

Belinda Sealle investigated the complexities of the operation of the Olive Way Kitchen by attending the Olive Way on a normal Thursday, speaking to staff and visitors, and separately to other users of the space. She identified two key threads: the value of the welcoming familiar space and a number of significant concerns. The Olive Way Steering Group received Belinda's report and her recommendation which was that a relocation to the main hall be trialled before doing any major renovations. This was endorsed by the JAM Committee and Church Council.

A relocation task group will be established in September to explore and oversee the trial relocation. If you are interested in joining the task group please speak to Richard Arnold, 0407 796 429.

#### Church Council Update

Shawn Whelan, Chair of Council, informed the meeting that a Joint Nominating Committee has been formed to call a Children & Youth Minister/Pastor. The JNC is made up of two Presbytery representatives: John Buckley and Rev. Ron Rosinsky, and three BUC members: Anita Brown-Major (Chair of CYYA committee), Colin Hunter (Student House committee), Claire Foley (Church Council). The membership of the committee was affirmed by consensus.

Shawn then provided a brief finance update affirming the pledges made by the congregation during the Mission Appeal in 2017. He noted that we are tracking a little below our projected income with a gap of \$7,000. He encouraged everyone to ensure that processes are in place for payment of pledges. He also shared that our investments are doing better with the fund topping up our spending from reserves.

Saide Cameron, Congregation Secretary

## > 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 cycles on **9th September** and **28th October** (following the Spring Picnic)

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](http://www.fasola.org)

Come along & join us on the **first Sunday** of every month, from 4pm-6pm in the hall. Contact Natalie Sims or Shawn Whelan, ph. 9495 6120, or email [sacred\\_harp@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sacred_harp@yahoo.com.au)

### Table Church

We gather to share a simple meal of soup & bread and dessert on **Sunday evenings**, (6-7:30pm), shaped by a liturgy that invites us to reflect on the week that has passed and to pray for each other. The shape of the evening is informal and low-stress.

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 September** from 7:00pm unless advised otherwise. For details, contact Kimberly Fraser, 0432 415 424.

### 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). **September** dates: **5th, 12th, 19th, 26th**

Sunday meditation times, meeting at the church at 8.15am are offered usually monthly. This month: **2nd & 30th September**.

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 26th September 2018**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

Our September book, *Draw your weapons* by Sarah Sentilles, offers an impassioned defence of life lived by peace and principle. Through a dazzling combination of memoir, history, reporting, visual culture, literature and theology, Sentilles tells the true stories of Howard, a conscientious objector during World War II and Miles, a former prison guard at Abu Ghraib. In the process, she challenges conventional thinking about how violence is waged, witnessed and resisted. Sentilles investigates images of violence from the era of slavery to the drone age. In doing so, she wrestles with some of our most profound questions: What does it take to inspire compassion? What impact can one person have? How should we respond to violence when it feels like it can't be stopped?



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

Faye 9379 1317 [faye.findlay18@gmail.com](mailto:faye.findlay18@gmail.com)  
or Christine 9386 8919 [christine@hornby.id.au](mailto:christine@hornby.id.au)

### Out and About Group

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. Contact Helen Rowe for further information about this month's activity. Ph. 0423 009 813 or email [helen.rowe@rocketmail.com](mailto:helen.rowe@rocketmail.com)

### Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Next Distribution Day - **Saturday 15th September**  
10 am-12 noon.

Reduce plastic packaging going to landfill. 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

# > Reports

## Church Council

Dear friends, This month your Church Council has turned its titanic will toward the following considerations:

- **Olive Way Coordinator**

After a careful period of consultation and discernment, we have decided to move toward designating this position as a pastor role. We have reflected on the way that this position has grown as the Olive Way mission has evolved. It has become a role that is not merely organisational, but calls for theological, pastoral, and missional leadership. By redesignating this role, we hope to acknowledge and support the sense in which this position exercises a spiritual call as a pastoral role, and provide commensurate compensation.

The financial implications of this change would amount to about \$5000 more a year in salary, for three years (as an initial contract period). We were agreed that we wanted to provide this financial support for the Olive Way, as a mission at the very heart of our congregation, which is exercising a growing and wonderful influence in the local community.

- **Sponsorship**

We agreed to provide \$500 of sponsorship money for the Equal Voices conference. We are hoping to take a closer look in the future at the way that our congregation goes about identifying and financially supporting causes.

- **Communications**

We're also looking at some options for spreading out the work of the Communications committee, which is currently overwhelmingly shouldered by Saide. We're keen to hear from you if you may be interested in volunteering some time in this space! Saide is in the process of preparing detailed guidelines for various tasks.

- **Property Maintenance**

The property committee does an absolutely fantastic job of overseeing maintenance for our properties. However, it is a massive job to undertake both short-term maintenance tasks as well as keep up with long-term projects that are necessary to prevent future problems. We are hoping to recruit some volunteers from the congregation to manage some one-off projects to try and keep up with this to-do list. So, if you don't have the time to join a regular committee, but might be interested in being supported to take on a single project, we're looking for you!

Daniel Broadstock

Brunswick Uniting Church		Income			
Estimates of 8 months 01 Jan 2018 - 31 Aug 2018		Estimated as at 27 August 2018		prepared by: LW 27/08/2018	
Total 8 months January-August inclusive					
Giving to the Church	EstActual	Budget	Actual-Budget\$	Actual-Budget %	comment
Offerings - Direct BUC ANZ	111,003	114,136	(3,133)	-3%	incl estimate of last 2 collections for August \$2000, plus monthly DD \$6,500
Offerings - Direct UCA Funds					
Offerings - Open					
Offerings - Envelopes					
Offerings - Thanksgiving	30,000	30,000	0	0%	Received, as budgeted
Donations Received - General	1,779	1,734	45	3%	
Donations Received - Olive Way	23,683	2,000	21,683	1084%	Donation \$20K plus Gilchrist drawdown \$3.5K
Donations Received - Pastoral Care	3,300	0	3,300		Donations to purchase food vouchers
Donations Received - BUC Arts/Artstop	0	740	(740)	-100%	Giving all through Fundraising, not Donations
Donations Received - Olive Arts	868	0	868		No budget, but received some
Fundraising - Christmas Bowl	0	0	0		Later in year
Fundraising - Olive Way	9,025	4,000	5,025	126%	Well over budget
Fundraising - Olive Arts	1,646	0	1,646		No budget, but some Fundraising done
<b>Total Giving to the Church</b>	<b>181,305</b>	<b>152,610</b>	<b>28,695</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>Over budget</b>
Mission Partners	EstActual	Budget	Actual-Budget\$	Actual-Budget %	
Donations Received - ASWC	0	0	0		Income from Fundraising, below
Donations Received - Lenten Appeal	1,078	300	778	259%	Well over budget
Donations Received - Share Appeal	0	400	(400)	-100%	
Donations Received - Uniting Winter Appeal	90	0	90		
Donations Received - Christmas Bowl	0	0	0		
Donations Received - Stewart Lodge	0	0	0		All later in year
Donations Received - JAM-nominated partner	0	0	0		
Fundraising - ASWC	9,015	5,000	4,015	80%	Well over budget
Fundraising - Act for Peace	0	400	(400)	-100%	No activity yet
Fundraising - JAM-nominated partner	0	600	(600)	-100%	No activity yet
<b>Total Giving intended for Mission partners</b>	<b>10,183</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>3,483</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>Well over budget</b>
Other income	Actual	Budget	Actual-Budget\$	Actual-Budget %	
Interest on investments	28,000	26,680	1,320	5%	Includes accruals
Student Accommodation Fees	32,258	32,460	(202)	-1%	On budget
Rental Property Income	47,496	47,320	176	0%	On budget
Property Hire	7,909	6,680	1,229	18%	Successful new 2018 hall hire rates
Sundry income	1,084	135	949	703%	
Camp Fees Received	4,200	4,200	0	0%	Excess \$900 transferred to Special Fund
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>120,947</b>	<b>117,475</b>	<b>3,472</b>	<b>3%</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME 8 MONTHS Jan-Aug 2018</b>	<b>312,435</b>	<b>276,785</b>	<b>35,650</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>Tracking well</b>
	<b>EstActual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual-Budget\$</b>	<b>Actual-Budget %</b>	

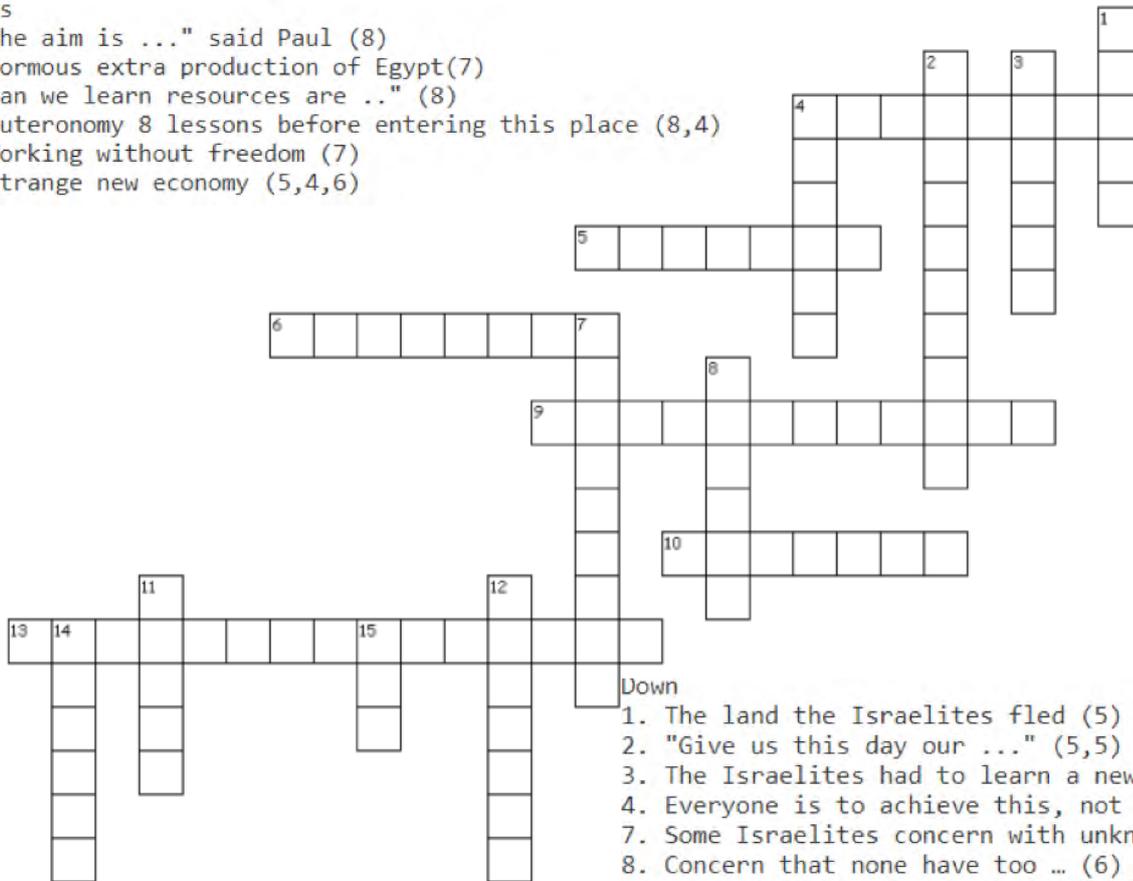
## Finance Committee

This month: THE RETURN OF THE CROSSWORD

Answers can be found both in the Bible and Jonathan Cornford's article on his website [http://www.mannagum.org.au/faith\\_and\\_economy](http://www.mannagum.org.au/faith_and_economy) "None Shall Have Too Much: The Strange Economics of Manna in the Wilderness".

Across

4. "The aim is ..." said Paul (8)
5. Enormous extra production of Egypt(7)
6. "Can we learn resources are .." (8)
9. Deuteronomy 8 lessons before entering this place (8,4)
10. Working without freedom (7)
13. Strange new economy (5,4,6)



Down

1. The land the Israelites fled (5)
2. "Give us this day our ..." (5,5)
3. The Israelites had to learn a new way of ... (6)
4. Everyone is to achieve this, not "too much" (6)
7. Some Israelites concern with unknown (8)
8. Concern that none have too ... (6)
11. Sustained the desert-wandering Israelites (5)
12. Radical industrial relations policy (7)
14. Stored wealth turns ... (6)
15. Does not live by bread alone (3)

## Worship Committee

The worship committee took a meeting break in August with half the committee being otherwise committed (think Fiji, the opera in Brisbane & a University Council meeting). However Caitlin Mullen and Saide Cameron met with Thomas Dan-U'Ren and Tameka Brown to talk about the **Christmas Eve pageant**. We're all very excited about the planned focus and shape for the pageant this year. Caitlin is working on the script which we are looking forward to reading soon. Watch out for the invitation to get involved - as always there will be lots possibilities. And also a new addition to our calendar will be an 'open to the congregation' dress rehearsal - so that if you have family commitments in the evening you will now have the opportunity to support and enjoy the pageant.

**29/7 Pentecost 10 John 6:1-21** Ian and Janet spoke about wondering questions with the children in response to the 'Feeding the 5000' story. They spoke about the strangeness of many of the stories we tell from the Bible, strange in wonderful and difficult ways. They went on to re-teach the verse written and accompanying actions first shared by Julie Perrin in 2015:



66 books

*The word Bible means library  
there are 66 books with many writers  
The stories were spoken and sung  
before they were written down.  
They come from long ago  
in far places and ancient languages  
no wonder we find them a little bit strange!  
But if we listen with curious minds and open hearts  
we might find wisdom and meet Jesus  
who is God's word to us.*



a little bit strange

You can see a video of Julie and Hoth from 2015 [here](#)  
scroll down a little

and a video of Ian and Janet during Children's Time [here](#).

Ian introduced us to the Greek Word of the Day brought to us by the Gospel of John – semeia, which means signs. He explained *'The crowd followed Jesus because of the signs that he was doing for the sick'* and commented that this word is used seventeen more times in John's gospel. Ian explored the difference between signs and miracles, the dangers of misreading signs and how John shows us what it looks like when the signs of Jesus are misread.'



Ian took us through the story inviting us to *'Read the signs, follow the signs'* as we engaged with the feeding of the 5000 and the disciples out on a boat in the stormy sea. He said *Today through these two signs the gospel asks 'How do you want to live your life? Seize security like the hungry crowd or risk your life out on the unpredictable waters? Is faith spiritual border security, grasping power or is faith a little boat that carries us out onto the choppy sea with storm clouds on the horizon?'*



Ian asked *'Where are you most likely to meet Jesus?'* and reflected on the end of the story noting that the disciples don't take hold of Jesus in any way other than with their faith. He concluded *'So do you believe in miracles? John doesn't. John the gospel writer doesn't. He believes in Jesus Christ. For him the so called miracles are signs pointing to Jesus, pointing to who he is, pointing to the nourishment, the healing, the sight and insight, the creative power over chaos, the peace that we can receive from him and that we are called to offer to the world as his followers. So friends read the signs, follow the signs that through believing you may have life in his name. Amen.'*



**5/8 Pentecost 11 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 6:24-35** Ian spoke with the children about Holy Communion and the sharing of bread and juice. He reminded them that at his last supper when Jesus was sitting at the table he 'took bread', he gave thanks, he broke the bread, and he shared it with his friends around the table. He took bread, he gave thanks, he broke the bread, he shared the bread. Ian used actions to show us all how these words shape our celebration of Holy Communion. He reminded us that we say 'Thank you God'. We remember Jesus in the taking saying 'Remember me'. And we say 'Come Holy Spirit' asking the Holy Spirit to unite us and bring us together.

We concluded singing Shawn Whelan's song with the musicians singing a beautiful cantored part to our refrain.

*In the taking, in the sharing, in the breaking, in the caring In the lifting, in thanksgiving, in out pouring, in forgiving*

In his sermon, on this a Communion Sunday, Ian explored Jesus' words *'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'* He introduced us to 'The Fundamentals – a testimony to the truth' commenting that *this modern way of thinking gets in the way and blocks the true reading of the ancient scriptures.* He then reminded us of key stories in John's Gospel through which Jesus reinterprets people's literal response to his words by self-identification, bringing us back to Jesus claim *'I am the bread of life'*.

The Gospel of John	Sign or Teaching	Misunderstanding	Reinterpretation
John 3 - Nicodemus	"be born again"	"return to mother's womb?"	I am the Son of God
John 4 - Samaritan Woman	"living water"	"Where's your bucket?"	I am the spring of living water
John 6 - The Crowd	5 loaves, 2 fish, 5000 people	full bellies	I am the bread

Ian reminded us that *'One thing the church has always done with this teaching is to enact its symbolism around this table in the sacrament of Holy Communion, the Eucharist, where we eat a scrap of literal bread and take a sip of literal juice.'* We listened to beautiful words from Renee August, a priest from South Africa, in which she describes the Eucharist as an act of protest and of re-mem-bering, an invitation into the deeper story. We then watched the scene from the movie Romero in which he is humiliated, stripped and robed in the blankets of the poor, a prophet who speaks on behalf of the poor. Ian said *'He speaks to evoke the bread of the life, a protest of thanksgiving in the face of the Empire.'*



Pointing us toward our celebration of Holy Communion he concluded *'And so now in our taking, breaking, sharing may we remember in thanksgiving who we belong to. May we remember that we are called to say yes to brokenness. And may go out from this table today, together to be living bread for a hungry world. In the name of Christ, Amen.'*



**12/8 Pentecost 12 John 6:35,41-51, Psalm 130, 2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,31-33** Saide and Carlyne shared a conversation with the children about how we talk to people in our lives. We talked about face-to-face conversations, Face Time, letters, songs, stories, prayers, sermons and psalms. We talked about how when things are too hard to say, when they are heavy on our hearts, we can write them down in letters. We agreed that sometimes people write songs to communicate feelings and sometimes we listen to songs because they help us feel things. And finally we talked about Psalms and remembered Julie Perrin teaching us about Yay, Oh No and OMG psalms. Carlyne commented that these are different types of psalms – psalms about being happy, being sad and heavy hearted and being amazed. She read Psalm 130 to help us understand how this psalm gave the writer a way of saying to God how sad he was about what was happening in his life.



We welcomed Carlyne Nunn as our preacher while Ian was enjoying two weeks of holiday in Fiji. Carlyne is a member of our congregation and a Candidate for Ministry of the Word.

Carlyne invited us to explore the story of Absalom and David commenting *'The story is as long and strange as it is heartbreaking'*. She asked *Is there justice here? Is that the point? Or have we found our way to the history of a family who just kept making mistakes. A family which was complicated, and knew in the worst way what it was to be human.* She then turned our attention to John's gospel, briefly recapping the preceding weeks before reflecting on the crowd's dissent in response to Jesus' claim to be sent from heaven. She shared that she also has questions about this claim, commenting and asking *'We can see situations of injustice, of real hunger and ask – if Jesus is who he says he is, can he not just multiply? Can people not just be fed? Is this just?'*



Carlyne reminded us of the narrative of God's provision for God's people. She said that *Jesus claiming an identity as the bread from heaven is a response to that narrative. Here is Jesus embodied as a new form of liberation'*. Speaking about the controversial nature of Jesus' claims she commented *Jesus used the metaphor of eating the bread of life as a way of talking about those who come to him, who see who he really is. And here we find more than solidarity, we find the nourishment of true liberation.*

She concluded *'We can work for justice and the making right of all things, and we can join those voices, call God's attention to those situations which feel to us, unjust. And, while we may not always have answers, what we do have is a king, or a maker, or a divine parent who doesn't behave the way a king should, who abdicates the throne, comes to us vulnerable and naked and dies with us and for us. A king who I hear much more in David's cry of anguish than in any battle cry.'*

**19/8 Pentecost 13 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14, Ephesians 5:15-20** Natalie spoke with the children about King Solomon's story

and began by telling them that Solomon is David's son and how important he was. She spoke about God speaking to Solomon in his dream. We remembered other stories in the Bible when God had spoken to people in their dreams. Natalie said this was an unusual story because God asked Solomon what he wanted and commented that he asked for something really unexpected 'wisdom and discernment'. Natalie wondered what these words meant and shared that she thinks they mean being able to make the right decision and commented that some decisions don't need wisdom and discernment but there are definitely some that do. She said King Solomon asked for wisdom and discernment because he wanted to be a good King so that he could look after the people of Israel. We finished by singing Shawn's song 'Grant us a wise and discerning heart'.



On the second Sunday of Ian's leave we welcomed Geoff Thompson as our preacher. Geoff is a member of our congregation and Co-ordinator of Studies - Systematic Theology at Pilgrim College.

Geoff began his sermon commenting that *'Conversations between Australians often begin with one of these two phrases: What do you know? or What are you up to?'*, noting that although we're not usually interested in the literal answer the first is about knowledge and the other about behaviour. Geoff went on then to explore the theme *'Combining wisdom and knowledge in the post-truth age.'* He observed that knowledge and behaviour belong together and that *'one of the categories for holding them together is wisdom'*.



To help explore this theme Geoff offered us insights into King Solomon's desire for understanding and reminded us that there is a whole cluster of books in the Old Testament *'designated as the wisdom literature'*. He reflected on Paul's declaration in his first letter to the Corinthians *'Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God'*. And he spoke of the post-truth age, of contemporary thinkers who comment on the implications of this way of responding to truth. Geoff affirmed that *'our culture also needs wisdom'*.

He spoke of our calling as Christians to be wise in the way wisdom is portrayed in the Bible, and wondered what wise Christian living looks like, offering possible answers to the questions 'What do you know?' and 'What are you up to?' for Christians. He said *'We won't undo the post-truth world merely by living in this way, but we might sow the seeds of helping to create a society and societies where wisdom is honoured and where we and others might catch a glimpse of the strange wisdom of God revealed in Jesus Christ.'*

**26/8 Pentecost 14 John 6:35, 52-59, 60-69** Having just returned from his holiday in Fiji Ian told the children that the people there seemed to be happy. He invited us to think about our life today, the life that we live here together in Australia. We shared words to describe our life here now: fun, playing with Lego, happy, relaxed, cold, wonderful, safe, comfortable, busy, tired, stressed, aches & pains, grateful, sick, content, thankful, anxious. Ian agreed that we all feel these things at different times in our lives. He



then wondered what God would say about God's life, some of the things we shared are: prayer, complicated and beautifully simple at the same time, love, full, beauty of creation, benevolence, kind, just, peaceful, sad with us, compassionate. Ian said *'wouldn't it be good if our lives were full of these things too'*. He said that Jesus brings our life and God's life together in the Holy Spirit. He said that this is



a hard thing for Jesus which he does through the cross.

We sang one of our new songs 'God is passionate life' using actions which symbolised how Jesus brings us closer to God.

Ian commented that *'eating and drinking in John's gospel is a symbol of faith, faith that gives life, faith that nourishes life'* and invited us to reflect on that life. He began by speaking of his recent visit to the Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre where he takes a service every couple of months, of the circumstances of the men who wait there for deportation and of his feelings of inadequacy in speaking with them about eternal life. Instead he found that the question of eternal life engaged them making the room come alive.

Ian then introduced us to 'Zoe', the Greek word for life and noted that John's gospel is all about having eternal life. He explained that the Greek word for eternity is *'eon, which can mean a time, period, a generation, a life time'*. Commenting that he thought that *'the word age is a helpful translation of eon'* he asked *'What are we living in now?'* Ian offered us an extensive list of possibilities before concluding that *Underlying much biblical thought is the mythical idea of two ages – the present age ... and the coming age of God'*.

**1:4** what has come into being in him was **zoë**  
**3:16** everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal **zoë**  
**10:10** I came that they may have **zoë** and have it abundantly  
**20:31** these signs are written ... that through believing you may have **zoë**

Ilan affirmed that the idea that the new age has begun (as illustrated by the Rugby Union World Cup Anthem) is one of the key meanings of Christ's story of resurrection in the gospels. *... The age characterized by peace, harmony, unity, compassion, communion, joy, justice and love, that age of life that overcomes sorrow and drives out fear has begun.* He wondered how this could be true when so much of what we see in the world contradicts this belief. Returning to his experience at MIDC he said *'What I saw there was a simple thing and a profound thing. What I saw there was faith. ... there they were modeling the words of Jesus, the words of spirit and life, the life of the age to come, there in that place of death, simply through faith. Does this offend you?, asks Jesus. Do you also wish to go away? Lord to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. Amen.*

**a new age has begun**

You can listen to all of these sermons from the website sermons & stories page <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/sermons-stories/> or by clicking on the links on these pages. **Saide Cameron**

## Property Committee

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

- The contract for the new sheds has been signed by Synod representatives and provided to Tony, awaiting planning permit.
- Approval given to the agents for maintenance work to be undertaken on 4 Merri Street.
- Stakeholders have been engaged in relation to the time to have the hall floor repainted. January 2019 is to the time that everyone agrees with.
- The faulty air dryer in the women's toilet has been replaced with a blade air dryer.
- Sanitary bins have been purchased and placed in the women's toilets.
- Old metal gate on Sydney Road which would swing onto the footpath has been attended to.
- Maintenance undertaken on the ASWC front door frame.
- Manse drain has been unblocked.
- The two ovens in the hall kitchen have had elements and light globes replaced.

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

- The Property Committee to manage the construction of the sheds in conjunction with the JAM committee.
- Ascertain the service requirements of the dishwasher's chemical pump also the replacement of the pipes.
- Modification to the ASWC west side door lock etc to make it usable. Need to ascertain the type of key to be utilised.
- Laurie to investigate the requirements to repair, 1) stone capping on west wall, 2) lintel over west door entrance in the welcome space and 3) key stone repairs/replacement in a window in the chapel space.
- The trees in the walkway pots have lost their leaves and are now ready to be removed. To be advertised in the Olive Press and then GumTree.
- It has been ascertained that the hall bench seats are made from Kauri wood. The current proposal is to offer them at \$200 per seat with the excess seats to be placed on eBay.
- Gutters and down pipes to be inspected and cleaned
- Maintenance work to be undertaken at the student houses, 'blackout' boards to be installed.
- Obtain quote(s) for the painting of the hall floor. Stakeholders to be engaged to ascertain the most appropriate time for the works to be undertaken given that it will take from 1 to 2 weeks.
- Modify the hatches above the two doorways between the church and the Olive Way to aid in cooling in hotter weather.
- Olive Way sliding door to be serviced (currently a bit noisier than usual) and its battery to be replaced.
- Dual toilet roll holders will be trialled in the disabled and a men's cubicle.
- Gas heater on the south wall of the hall isn't operating, to be repaired.

Ray Cameron

## > Preaching Plan

September 2	Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>	September 30	Ian Ferguson <b>Reflective worship</b>	October 21	Ian Ferguson <b>Reflective worship</b>
September 9	Ian Ferguson	September 30	<i>to be advised</i> <b>Combined BIUC, 5:00pm</b>	October 28	Ian Ferguson <b>Blessing the bikes</b>
September 16	Ian Ferguson	October 7	Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>	November 4	Graeme Garret <b>Holy Communion</b>
September 23	Ian Ferguson	October 14	Ian Ferguson <b>Blessing the animals</b>	November 11	Ian Ferguson

## > Lectionary

### 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
2/9	Pentecost 15	Song 2:8-13	Ps 45:1-2,6-9	Jas 1:17-27	Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23	G
9/9	Pentecost 16	Prv 22:1-2,8-9,22-23	Ps 125	Jas 2:1-10,(11-13),14-17	Mk 7:24-37	G
16/9	Pentecost 17	Prv 1:20-33	Ps 19	Jas 3:1-12	Mk 8:27-38	G
23/9	Pentecost 18	Prv 31:10-31	Ps 1	Jas 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mk 9:30-37	G
30/9	Pentecost 19	Est 7:1-6, 9-10, 20-22	Ps 124	Jas 5:13-20	Mk 9:38-50	G
7/10	Pentecost 20	Jb 1:1; 2:1-10	Ps 26	Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mk 10:2-16	G
14/10	Pentecost 21	Jb 23:1-9,16-17	Ps 22:1-15	Heb 4:12-16	Mk 10:17-31	G
21/10	Pentecost 21	Jb 38:1-7(34-41)	Ps 104:1-9,24,35c	Heb 5:1-10	Mk 10:35-45	G
28/10	Pentecost 22	Jb 42:1-6,10-17	Ps 34:1-8(19-22)	Heb 7:23-28	Mk 10:46-52	G

## September Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>September 2</b> 8:15 – Meditation 9:30 – Ian Ferguson <b>HC</b>  4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p	3	4	5	6	7	8
		10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Mediation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way		
		7:00 – Mulling	5:30 – Mediation	7:00 – Deepening Faith		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:30 – BUC Cycle		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way		10:00 – Food Co-op
5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church		7:30 – Church Council	5:30 – Mediation	7:00 – Deepening Faith	6:30 – SSS Dinners 7:30 – YUCY	6:30 – SSS Dinners
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 – Ian Ferguson Welcoming Ceremony 12:30 – SSS Lunches		10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Mediation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way		
5:00 – Indonesian W’p			5:30 – Mediation 7:30 – Worship C’tee	6:45 – JAM C’tee 7:00 – Deepening Faith		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30 – Ian Ferguson		10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Mediation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way		
5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church		7:30 – Property C’tee	5:30 – Mediation 7:30 – Book Club	7:00 – Deepening Faith	7:30 – YUCY	
30	October 1	2	3	4	5	6
8:15 – Meditation 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:30 – Cut & Paste W’shop		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way		2:30 – Coffee
5:00 – Indonesian W’p				7:00 – D&E series		