

THE OLIVE BRANCH

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

> Meditation

Blessing of the Bikes - a meditation on wheels

In honour of the Blessing of the Bikes on Sunday 28/10, I'd like to reflect with you on the symbolism of wheels.

The Prophet Ezekiel has a wild and wonderful vision (Chp 1) of many faced angels with multiple wings forming a living chariot - one wheel is spiritually linked to each angel, each wheel is made of two wheels, a wheel within a wheel, each wheel is covered with living eyes!

Ezekiel is addressing the exiles in Babylon, those torn from their land, their home, and their place of worship – "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" they cry. To them Ezekiel says, "The God I've seen is not stuck back in the destruction of your past, separated from you by dislocation, grief and despair. No, the God I've seen has wheels, she rolls with you into exile and will roll before you out of exile."

This vision was particularly important to African slaves in America. They sang about it in their songs as a way of saying God moves with us even when we feel separated from God.

Ezekiel saw that wheel

Way up in the middle of the air

Ezekiel saw that wheel whirling

Way up in the middle of the air

Now the big wheel runs by faith

And the little wheel runs by the grace of God

And a wheel in a wheel whirling

Way up in the middle of the air (Trad. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7f69SLJPNRU>)

The medieval Christian mystic Hildegard of Bingen also had a vision of wheels:

We are a wheel, a circle of life.

We are a wheel, a circle of power.

We are a wheel, a circle of light,

circling the world this sacred hour.

Hildegard's vision speaks to me of the exile of the earth itself through the oppression of climate change and global injustice. The earth needs wheels that turn with gentleness in creation and peace towards all creatures to bring it home to the harmony intended by God. Could we be those wheels? – wheels that turn with the mysterious love of God, the love seen by Ezekiel and made flesh in Jesus Christ.

There is a similar idea in Hindu and Buddhist tradition. The Sanskrit word for wheel is Chakra. Like the English words, cycle and circle, chakra comes from an ancient root word meaning "to turn". The wheel/chakra is a key symbol in Hinduism and Buddhism representing death and rebirth. Buddhism also speaks of the Chakravartin, the Wheel Turner – an ideal universal ruler who rules ethically and benevolently over the entire world – one "whose wheels are moving, whose chariot rolls everywhere without obstruction". I like that image. It connects powerfully across religions with the visions of Ezekiel and Hildegard: living wheels turned by God's spirit rolling everywhere without obstruction, circling the world with life, light and healing power.

If I can indulge in a bit of religious appropriation, it seems to me that the Christian understanding of Jesus fits well with the idea of the Chakravartin. For Christians he is the one in whom the kingdom of heaven, the reign of justice and peace, has rolled near for all creation, moving into and leading the way out of the world's brokenness, rolling into every place of exile where people feel cut off from the holy love that sustains them. Christ's wheels roll even into the place of ultimate exile, death. But even there they roll on, moved by the Spirit to raise him up, and to raise up with all those who are trod down by the weight of spiritual and physical exile.

What a good reason to ride a bike!

Ian Ferguson



> Worship Calendar

November

We will welcome **Graeme Garrett** as our preacher on **4th November** while enjoys a long weekend away. Graeme will also preside over Holy Communion.

On **18th November** we will celebrate the **baptism of Jack Bottcher**, son of Fiona & Evan Bottcher.



And finally on **25th November** we celebrate the last Sunday of the liturgical year - **Christ the King**.

This service will include a **Celebration of Ministry & Future Directions**. See Special Events for an invitation to participate in an informal conversation as part of the consultation of Ian's ministry - he has been our Minister since February 2013!! Where have those five years gone?

Advent

The season of Advent begins on **Sunday 2nd December**. After worship on **11th November** the worship committee will host an **Advent worship planning meeting**. If you are interested in learning about the themes of this season come along and join us as we reflect on the readings for the four Sundays and how they speak to us in our place and time now.



We'll plan an overall theme, identify some theme songs, talk about candle lighting and a whole lot more.

If you are interested, want to know more or are ready to say 'yes I'll be there' please email saide.cameron@bigpond.com or call 0407 096 743

Blue Christmas

Blue Christmas will be held on **Wednesday 12th December** at 7:30 pm. This is a quiet service of reflection & meditation for people who want a space to grieve, remember loved ones who have died, look back over a difficult year, seek peace in troubled times or simply take some time away from the busyness of this particular time of the year.

Christmas Eve Pageant

Join us on **Christmas Eve** at 7 pm for '**Leading the Way**'. We have an excellent script and an enthusiastic group of young people together with a few older people taking part.

If you would like to get involved, offer to help or have any questions about the pageant please contact Saide Cameron (producer) 0407 096 743 or Caitlin Mullen (director) 0411 033 153

Christmas Eve

We gather again at 11:30 pm to welcome in Christmas Day with candle light and a celebration of Holy Communion.

Christmas Day

We celebrate the birth of Christ at our regular worship time of 9:30am.



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> Special Events

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5-year review of Ian's ministry at BUC

Informal discussion on **18th November**

Can you believe that way back in February this year it was 5 years since Re Ian Ferguson joined us at BUC? Both Ian and the Church Council are keen that we take time to reflect on the gifts he has brought, the growth he has helped to foster, and directions for his ministry with us into the next 5 years.

Please join Church Council and Rev Peter Gador-Whyte (Presbytery representative) for discussion along these lines, at an informal gathering following worship on 18 November in the Olive Way. Bring along your reflections, themes to celebrate, and any concerns you may have. If you'd like to bring a creative response - a poem, artwork, story, etc - that would be most welcome!

You're also welcome to share your thoughts with the Elders/ Church Councillors at any time, to feed into our ongoing process of discernment.

Congregational Meeting & Lunch

A congregational meeting will be held after worship on **25th November**. The main agenda item for this meeting will be the annual Election of Elders. [Nominations forms are available here.](#)

After the meeting the Pastoral Care Community Team will host a lunch. Hopefully it will be excellent BBQ weather so we'd love to hear from anyone who would like to help with preparations/ Offers of salads and fruit platters are also welcome. If you want to offer to help please contact Saide Cameron, 0407 096 743, saide.cameron@bigpond.com.

> Culture of Safety

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

If any member of the congregation – child or adult - has concerns about the safety of our children, particularly in relation to child sexual abuse, or the welfare of vulnerable adults, you may report this in confidence so that support can be provided. You may speak to Helen Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Culture of Safety Contact 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 at 0423 009 813

Election of Elders

The Church Council is made up of 10 Elders providing leadership and oversight of the ministry and mission of our congregation through our committee structure.

The Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month and also participates in a retreat in February.

Many people have served on Council over the years and it is an excellent way to learn more about how we function as a congregation as well as an opportunity to share your gifts.

There are three vacancies for 2019 following the resignation earlier on the year of Behzad Farhangi together with Daniel Broadstock and Steph Gesling concluding their time as Elders.

The timeline for nominations is:

- **28th October - 11th November** – nominations called. [Nomination forms will be available at worship and also here.](#)
- **11th November** – nominees announced by group email after worship.
- **18th November** – agenda published with profiles of nominees.
- **25th November** – Congregational meeting and election.

For information about nominations or the election please contact Saide Cameron, saide.cameron@bigpond.com

To be eligible for the role of Elder you must be a confirmed member of the Uniting Church or a confirmed member-in-association, ie confirmed in another denomination.

You can find out more about the role of Council and Committees on our website in the Members Area - [Who's Who](#). Scroll down to Council & Committees and Working Together.

You might also like to talk to one of our current elders: Daniel Broadstock, Linda Wannan, Claire Foley, Kate Scull, Helen Rowe, Gwen Arnold, Shawn Whelan, James Balsillie, Steph Gesling.

> Justice & Mission News

From the committee

The Olive Way

- We are looking forward to the outcomes of the **Olive Way Review**. We are grateful to Tim Budge for his leadership of the review the way in which he has engaged OW guests in the process. The outcomes will support the setting of future directions.
- We have recommended to Church Council that Peter Blair be appointed as the **Olive Way Co-ordinator** for a further 3 years commencing 1st January 2019 with the position to be changed to Olive Way Pastor when recognized by Presbytery.
- We have also recommended that Peter Murphy be appointed as **Olive Way Kitchen Co-ordinator** for a further three years commencing 1st January 2019.
- The south west corner of the garden has been allocated for a **Community Garden** in response to a request from OW members. Stay tuned to find out how to get involved.
- We are delighted with the development of the **RESPECT postcard project** to support relationships in the Olive Way Community. See Olive Arts News

FUNdraising

- See **FUNdraising News** for opportunities to support the Olive Arts, Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal, Stewart Lodge Carols and the ReGen Hamper Appeal over the next two months.
- We received a request from Kate Kirkwood to book the hall for a **Brooch Day event** on 2nd March 2019 and are delighted that Council has supported JAM's recommendation to proceed with this which brings in funds from people outside BUC. A donation will be made to the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre for the Driving Program.

Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre

- The **raised vegetables gardens** have received sustained attention from Kunle who will soon conclude his placement at the ASWC. Kunle is doing a Community Development course at Swinburne TAFE. He has been assisted in this work by Paola, a regular volunteers and corporate volunteers. The beds are now ready for planting.
- Concerns raised about the **compost bins** are being addressed. Kunle has prepared posters to assist all users of the property with understanding what can and cannot be placed in the bins. Abi is also exploring other options.
- Jan Garrod, who supports the **ASWC art program**, is working with a group to design a mural for the fence at the back of the cottage. We are look forward to reviewing the brief for this project.
- The **ASWC End of Year event** will be held on Tuesday 18th December. All are welcome. Details coming soon.

Stewart Lodge Ministry

- We have decided to cease providing a **driving roster** to pick up residents for worship due to infrequent use of the service.
- **Stewart Lodge Carols** is a regular event on our calendar and we plan to continue our celebration of Christmas with the residents. However we have decided to take a different approach to gift giving. Instead of the hampers we will be purchasing gift cards/vouchers from the local IGA. Many of the residents shop their regularly and are well known and cared for by the staff. We believe that a gift card provides the residents with greater autonomy and the opportunity to buy something that they really want.

BUC Arts

- There is so much happening in this space including the Collage Workshop, Olive Arts Collective and Olive Pesto.
- The BUCArts committee is hosting a **planning day** on 17th November to ensure that all these activities and others that continue to emerge are well supported.
- See BUC Arts news for more information.

Tower Room Window

- The display installed by Church Council in response to the **Assembly decision on marriage** has received many positive responses. It has now been up for almost three months and in keeping with our desire to allow this space to tell our story in different ways will be taken down for now.
- Abi Benham-Bannon, on behalf of Love Makes a Way, has set up a display to promote **#KidsOffAllOff**.
- Following this, artwork from the **Olive Arts Collective** will be displayed in the lead up to Advent.
- The worship committee is looking forward to creating something that speaks of the **themes of Advent**.

Public Housing

- A rally will be held at the State Library on 9th November to protest the sell-off of Public Housing. Join members of the JAM committee under our BUC Banner from 5pm and be part of the protest against this injustice.

PIEN Speaker Tour

- It was such a privilege to hear Areej speak of her life in Palestine. She spoke with incredible grace of the hardships and the ways in which she chooses to respond to violence.
- Thank you to the Community Team for providing lunch after the forum.

We have two meetings left this year. We'd love to welcome new members to our committee in 2019. We always share a meal with our meetings; discussions and conversations are rich, productive and inspiring. Join us, you won't be sorry!!

Saide Cameron

BUC Arts News

Come Dream with Us!

'We need to dream powerfully'

Stefano Conti – Artist and poet of The Olive Arts Collective.

BUC Arts produces and supports many wonderful ways that art and creativity is explored, offered and celebrated in our community including -

- The [Olive Pesto](#) and [Olive Arts Collective](#)
- [World Wide Knit in Public Day](#), [Felting for Peace](#), [Collage Workshops](#)
- [What is Creativity exhibition](#), participating in the [Brunswick Studio Walk](#), Art for the Heart exhibitions

Following the recent Arts Access and Olive Arts review, the Justice & Mission Committee recommended that a Planning Day be held to reflect on the story so far, to dream together and plan for the future. The gathering will be facilitated by artist and facilitator Liz Johnson. We will also visit the Counihan Gallery for the opening of Moreland Summer Show for inspiration and interest. Three members of our congregation have artworks in the show!

When: **17th November 2018**

Where: **Workroom 1, Siteworks** – 33, Saxon Street, Brunswick (off Dawson street)

Time: **1pm (for light refreshments) till 4.30pm**

RSVP: **Ann Soo**, annsoo11@tpg.com.au or 0422 842 244 **by 15th November.**

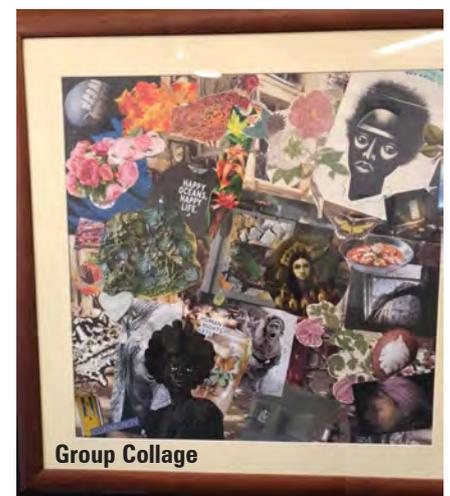
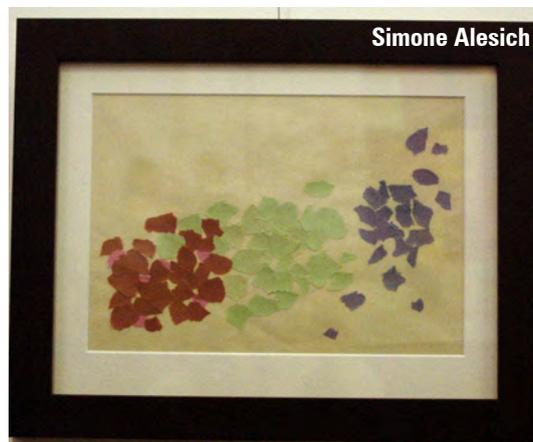
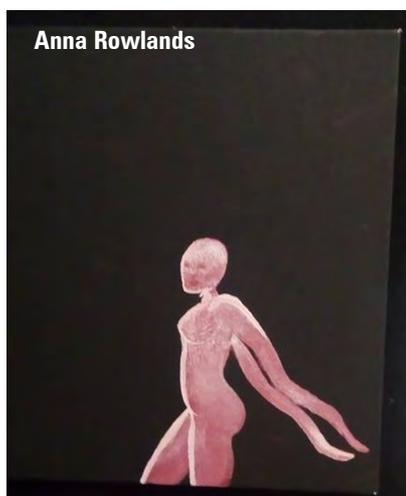
Our committee (Ann Soo, Leanne Salau, Tim Hoffmann, Simone Alesich, Ian Ferguson and Saide Cameron) would love to benefit from your creativity and energy. Come along and dream with us in creative ways and help us create a vision for the Arts in 2019. Joining the committee is not assumed but we thank you for considering and please feel free to add your name to our BUC Arts Friends List.

Please contact Ann or Saide for more information.

Now read on as we celebrate the creative work of the last month.

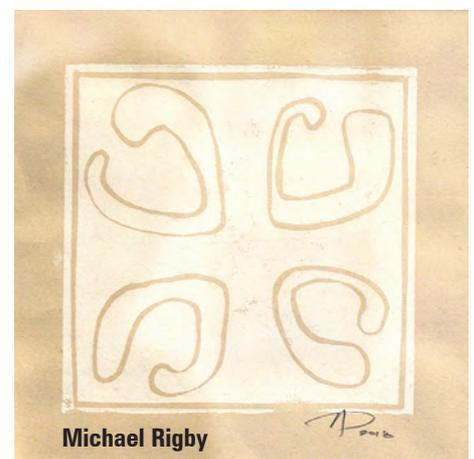
Saide Cameron

Art for the Heart

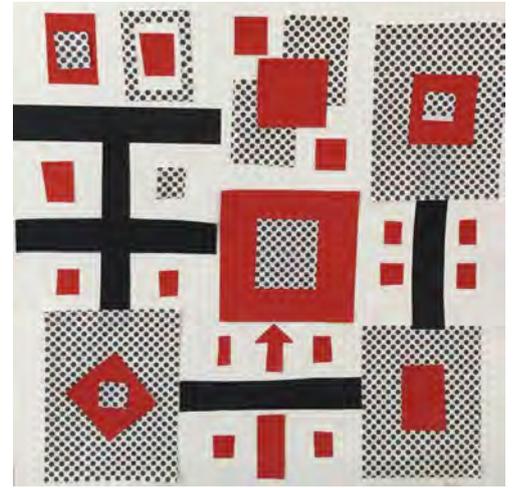


The **2018 Art for the Heart exhibition** was held in two light-filled rooms in the North Melbourne Meat Market. Artworks were arranged by theme, and by colour, with sombre works grouped in one area and brightly coloured works in another. Each description revealed an underlying motivation of the artist. Many artists shared their own personal experiences of grief and loss, some shared their experience of dementia. The opportunity to create and display artworks was clearly a cathartic experience for many. Loss, love and hope were reflected in so many different ways by the generous contributions of the artists.

Simone Alesich



More Than Cut and Paste Collage Workshops



Our first in a series of More Than Cut and Paste collage workshops got off to a great start on Sunday October 28th in the Youth Hall between 11am and 1.30pm. Led by experienced artist and printmaker Priscilla Manthey, a brief history of collage became the springboard for us to create our own artworks.

Priscilla explained that collage is an assemblage of different forms that creates a new whole. Drawing from the work of Piet Mondrian, Priscilla invited us to use paper in only three colours. By tearing or cutting shapes, we arranged them as though they were having a conversation with each other! Over the next one and a half hours, some astonishing results emerged. Please see the photos that say it all! The workshops will continue for the next four weeks. We will then negotiate if a further fifth or sixth session will be held.

This week (November 4th) the collage theme is about junk and found objects. Priscilla has encouraged us to bring items from foraging in our own homes, or even in the street where we might find a peeling old poster or two. So, bring what you find interesting as this workshop will be a three-dimensional experience. Session Three (November 11th) will be Matisse inspired that is cutting organic shapes and placing them within strips of coloured paper. Lots of twists and curly shapes cut with a Japanese knife!

If you are interested please contact Ann Soo on 0422 842 244 or annsoo11@tpg.com.au. Looking forward to sharing more exciting results of from these workshops. Free of charge!



Respect Postcard Project

The Olive Arts Collective is working on an exciting new project exploring respect and relationships. Soon you will start seeing beautiful postcards created from images drawn by OAC artists.



Olive Pesto



This joyful group meets on the first Saturday of the month in the Youth Hall where they **Make, Learn, Laugh and Share**. The group grew from the World Wide Knit Public Day events. Consignments of knitted goods are regularly donated to KOGO (Kinit One Give One). Recently Leanne Salau and Ann Soo took a delivery to Lincraft.

In October Olive Pestovians started preparing fabulous **Christmas Craft for the Christmas Bowl Appeal stalls** which will be held over the first two Sundays in December. Work will continue at the November Olive Pesto gathering on 3rd November. If you missed out and want to help make Christmas Craft to donate to the FUNdraising stalls please contact Glenice Cook, Ann Soo or Leanne Salau.



FUNdraising News

We're finishing the year off with an event and the highly popular Christmas Bowl Appeal FUNdraising Stalls.



Join us for [Move your Arts](#), an afternoon of Dancing & Dessert with Terry Towelling and the Tank Tops to raise money for the Olive Arts Collective. The Olive Arts Collective is a group of artists with a passion for and focus on community, compassion, creativity and care. The conversations stimulate, the silences speak focus, hands express creativity and connections deepen in the beautiful light filled Youth Hall.

When: **Sunday 11th November**, 2-6pm

Where: **8 Winifred St., Northcote**

Your hosts: **Saide, Trish, Kylie**

What: **Dance, Eat, Donate, Enjoy**

Questions & RSVP:

Saide Cameron,
saide.cameron@bigpond.com,
0407 096 743

Christmas Bowl Appeal

The [Christmas Bowl appeal](#) is a much-loved tradition through which 1,800 churches from 18 denominations come together in a powerful demonstration of faith and love to help some of the world's most vulnerable people. It is our way of forging a loving connection between our Christian community here in Australia and people around the world who are experiencing dreadful hardship and suffering.

This year's theme is 'Love thy Neighbour'.



& 9th December, singing **Carols at the Manse** (*date to be advised*) and making our own tax-deductible donations

Every year we support the Christmas Bowl Appeal financially by buying beautiful craft, tantalizing treats and delicious preserves at the **FUNdraising Stalls** after worship, this year on **2nd**

either [online](#) or using the envelopes provided at worship (*available in December*).

All proceeds will support the projects sponsored by the Christmas Bowl. This year the projects identified are:

- Vanuatu - Bringing home in times of disaster
- Pakistan - Creating peace through education
- Syria - Love in action for Syrian refugees
- Zimbabwe - Joy amidst the drought

Myanmar - Lighting up the darkness for Rohingya refugees



Love Thy Neighbour



PIEN Speaker Tour

It was such a privilege to welcome Areej Masoud to speak on the topic 'Any hope for peace in Palestine now, or ever?' Areej is a Palestinian Christian born in Bethlehem, who lives with minutes from the birthplace of Jesus. Currently, she works as the Development and Communications Department Coordinator at Bethlehem Bible College.

Our congregation was a foundation sponsor for the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network Tour which saw Areej speak to a lot of people in a variety of settings over three weeks. Our 'Glitter Balls & Big Hair - Musical Bingo' event in 2017 raised \$3,446.15 which, with a further anonymous \$3,000 donation, was a significant and welcome contribution to the tour.



Tim Budge, former Executive Officer of the PIEN network introduced Areej, speaking of her many speaking commitments and that the impact she has made in the brief time she has been in Australia speaking about her life in Palestine and for Palestinian Christians. Areej began by commenting that *living in Palestine is not easy*. She said that when she returned at the age of 7 that she noticed almost immediately the impact of occupation on her life and the resulting restrictions.

She shared what a normal day is life including severe water restrictions, the walls that are her daily view, of intentionally looking for the soldiers who are often no more than 18 years old, of disruptions at work caused by tear gas, of the hours that in can take to get to work which is only a 15 minute drive from her home and ultimately having to give up her job because of the hours that she had to miss. She commented that she has never celebrated Easter in the Holy Sepulchre.

Areej shared an experience of seeking to go through a checkpoint to an appointment and being asked for documentation that is not normally required. In the midst of the soldiers' screaming and wanting to scream herself she asked herself 'How can I love my enemy in this situation?'. Having learnt that loving her enemy means holding them accountable for their acts of harm to others and themselves, she took a breath to calm down and noticed that the soldier had the words 'love, humanity, peace' tattooed on his arm. She said to him 'you have a nice tattoo'. She said he stopped screaming and said, 'okay just once you can pass'. Areej commented this is a form of creative resistance that she uses as a Palestinian Christian. She concluded by reminding us that our policies have an impact on the lives of Palestinian Christians and that we can speak up and make a difference.

A recording of Areej's presentation and question time is available [here](#).

ReGen Christmas Hampers

Once again Uniting ReGen is collecting hampers for our clients, who may struggle during Christmas time. In the past members of Brunswick Uniting Church have generously provided Uniting ReGen with many hampers which we have been able to give out to the people who engage in our services. If you have any questions please call Linda Coventry Poole on 93848870, who is coordinating our food hamper collection for 2018. Hampers can be placed in two recyclable bags. A list of [suggested contents is available here](#) or please contact Saide Cameron, saide.cameron@bigpond.com for a copy of the list. Please deliver your hampers to the church by Sunday 25th November.

Saide Cameron



Laurence Alvis

> Pastoral Care News - Community

October

- The '**Appreciative Enquiry**' has been postponed to 2019. We're preparing to offer a variety of opportunities to respond to the enquiry. More details to come.
- **Lunch after the forum** with Areej on **21st October** was very pleasant with lots of pastries, fresh fruit, scones and biscuits to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who stayed on and to Christine, Geoff & Linda for providing the fruit platters.

- We finished the month off with a **Spring Picnic** after worship on **28th October**. Four cyclists took the long way round via Flemington Bridge to Temple Park where a lovely picnic was enjoyed by a small but happy group of picnickers appreciating the sunshine, shade and conversation.



November

Lots more opportunities in November to enjoy each other's company ...

- On **Sunday 11th November** everyone is invited to a **Backyard Band party** in support of the Olive Arts Collective with the altogether fabulously famous covers band - Terry Towelling and the Tank Tops. Save the date and come along to enjoy the music, the dancing and the afternoon tea. Make a donation and let's have fun. See FUNdraising News for more information, p7.
- Church Council will host a conversation during morning tea after worship on **18th November** for anyone interested in reflecting on Ian's ministry over the last five years. A **Congregational Meeting** will be held after worship on **25th November**. Everyone is invited to stay on after lunch - a BBQ if we have volunteers, something else if not. See Special Events, p3.

Saide Cameron

> Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

New Minister for the Children & Families, Youth & Young Adults (CYA) of BUC - Update

The Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) has been preparing documents that are required by Presbytery (the regional oversight council of the UCA), in order to support our proposal for a new Children & Families, Youth and Young Adults Minister, or placement.

We have prepared the following:

- CYA Minister position description;
- Updated Congregation Profile.

These documents have been prepared in consultation with Ian, Shawn and Saide; and then with the Church Council. Church Council ratified the documents, by consensus, on Wednesday, 24 October 2018.

Linda Wannan, our Treasurer, has prepared and provided financial statements to show we have the financial viability to support this application.

Our proposal will be presented to the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) on Tuesday 30th October 2018. The PRC is a committee of Presbytery. Colin Hunter and Ron Roskinsky will attend this meeting to present our application.

Once the PRC has accepted this request (or asked for further information) the next step is the Synod Placement Committee who look for the 'best fit' for the role.

Then follows a series of conversations between the JNC and proposed Minister. And, eventually, conversations including Ian.

The members of the JNC are John Buckley, the Presbytery Liaison Person; Ron Rosinsky – Rep from Pastoral Relations Committee; and from BUC: Anita Brown-Major - chair of CYA Committee; Colin Hunter – rep from Student House committee; Claire Foley - rep from Church Council.

Claire Foley, 29 October 2018

Student House News

Working Bee

On behalf of the Student House Program at BUC, thank you to everyone who contributed to and participated in the student house working bee held on 14th October. Much was accomplished. Many thanks to: students, SHC members, Property Committee members, Church Council members, Church members - everyone who participated. Many thanks also to all for their contributions to the lunch spread. It was delicious!

The space inside and outside both the Orange and the Green House looks good. Thanks again to each of you for being there and for your ongoing support to the Student House Program.

Endings & Beginnings

It's that time of the year when a number of the students are concluding their studies and moving on. If you know any young people living in the country who might be interested in joining our community please share the following information with them.



Moving to Melbourne for tertiary study next year?

Are you Interested in being part of a Christian student house in Brunswick?

Our program provides affordable housing close to university and public transport in Melbourne's inner-north.

Students explore their faith with fellow young Christians and actively participate in the life of Brunswick Uniting Church.

If you are interested in joining our vibrant community, and need more information, visit the [Student House page](#) on our website and contact our Student House Support Worker at student-housebuc@gmail.com.

Valentina Satvedi-Leydon

> Discipleship & Education News

Death in October

Why we did it

This all started with a reflection on the number of older frail or dying relatives, members of the congregation were struggling with, expanded into thoughts about the ethics of voluntary assisted dying, observations about the expertise in this area which already existed in the congregation and bore fruit in a four week program to explore issues in this "taboo" area. Frailty, illness and death are part of the daily experience of many of us, but very often we try to avoid even thinking about it until we are faced with a crisis. When that happens we are often in no state to think clearly at all.

Our hope is that we have given people a starting point to approach changes to advanced care directives, enduring powers of attorney and voluntary assisted dying. It is not a question of IF this will effect you. The only question is WHEN and do you have administrative things in place for you best outcome and to assist family and friends making decisions at that time.

Meg Orton



Death over Dinner



On **Thursday 4th October**, Meg Orton, psychologist working out Aspire Health and Psychology and member of our congregation, hosted a very enjoyable and engaging evening discussing what can be a very challenging topic. Meg invited us to prepare for the evening by reading, listening to and watching various people's views and experiences about preparing for death. Included in [the list](#) was a blog from a palliative care doctor's letter to David Bowie, a podcast from Atul Gawande, surgeon, writer and researcher in which he discusses his book 'Being Mortal' which takes a look at how humans confront death. The list is available [here](#).

As we gathered around our tables we were invited to respond to an ice-breaker question. Later we were given a page with [seven sets of statements](#) that invited us to reflect on our values and how these values impact on decisions that we might want to make in relation to: physical discomfort and suffering, being a burden, decisions about treatment, 'being kept alive', quality of life, levels of care, life saving treatment, good and poor outcomes. The statements were adapted from [MyValues](#) which is a set of specially constructed statements designed to help people identify, consider and communicate their wishes about the medical treatment they might want in the later stages of life. Meg also invited us to reflect and share on the question 'How does my Christian Faith inform my approach to death?'. Such a big question and worthy of ongoing thought.

At the end of the evening Ian thanked Meg and everyone who had contributed to the dinner for providing us with food for to eat and share and much food for thought. Meg also emailed a list of [Resources relating to End of Life Care](#)'.

VAD Forum

The forum, held on **Thursday 11th October** explored the practical, pastoral and theological implications of Victoria's new VAD legislation.

We were privileged to hear from

- Joel Hallinan - Inquiry Officer, Parliament of Victoria, Legal and Social Issues Committee, Inquiry into End of Life Choices offered a presentation about his involvement in the preparation of the legislation - What an amazing process. Joel's presentation was thorough and very clear, giving us insight into what was considered and how decisions were made along the way to creating the legislation. He commented on the choices that people can make, who can make them, when and under what circumstances.
- Rev Dr Jason Goroncy - Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology, Whitely College, University Divinity spoke to us about wide ranging implications of the legislation. He commented on what this means for us to be human and a compassionate society, that we have come a long way since the 1960s, understanding that death is no longer something that we have to prevent. He spoke about the idea of the immortal soul being heretical and oppressive, of the nature of life and our obedience to God. He reminded us that we live and die without any script, as Jesus did. He concluded '*In every experience, in everything God is waiting for us. ... And for God, voluntary death is not an unfamiliar experience*'.



- Associate Professor Rosalie Hudson - consultant/nurse educator in aged care, palliative care, dementia care and ethics shared her experiences from many years of providing care and education. Rosalie began by emphasizing the fact that 'we are made in the image of God'. She reminded us that God is our beginning and our end. She spoke of the work of the UC Ethics committee. She spoke about her work in palliative care and told us that dementia care now comes under palliative care. She spoke of interdependence and the nature of one person being a burden to another and bearing witness to suffering. She concluded in the words of 'anonymous' - to cure sometimes, to relieve often, to comfort always.

A recording of the forum including question time is available [here](#).

Advanced Care Planning Workshop

Saide Cameron

On **Thursday 18th October** Jenne Perlstein provided us with information about how to create an Advanced Care Directive.

We learning about

- choosing a medical treatment decision maker (this replaces Medical Power of Attorney)
- a guide to Advanced Care Directive which includes a range items including: your personal details, values directive which contribute to decisions made in relation medical treatment should the need arrive (these are not binding); the instructional directive which is legally binding and

communicates your medical treatment decisions directly to your health care professions.

This document is best prepared when you are well, ie in advance. It is a very personal process and document.

The workshop was very useful and gave me a lot to think about. I came away with information about the sorts of things to consider and reflect on when preparing an ACD and the need to communicate it with your loved ones and medical professionals. This is something I hope to discuss my parents as well.

Ray Cameron



Honouring Grief & Loss - A personal perspective

As part of the 'Death in October' series the Discipleship and Education Committee ran a meditative session in the church on **Thursday 25th October** 2018.

I did not know what to expect when I attended. This was a good thing.

It was a good thing to move into a space where you had no set expectation of how things would unfold..... leaving an opportunity for the Spirit to work with you from within.

Our beautiful BUC church provided a space softened by music, where we could physically connect with grief. There were many options for those of us who attended.

- Art – to ponder.
- Tactile shawls and antique silks from kimonos – to touch and feel the comfort.
- Candles – a classic way to remember someone or something.
- Art materials – to draw or write.
- Small books with various readings – to see the world from a different perspective.

This was a chance for me, to be in a safe, quite place and sit with grief I hold in my heart. A personal invitation about a very personal feeling.

All of us were provided with the opportunity to honour grief. That is, to own it, to feel it and to accept it.

Like many, I have experienced grief and sadness in my life. I generally deal with this by keeping busy and having many things in the day that keep me interested in life and grateful for my blessings. It is also important for me to recognise that deep loss leaves a deep hurt within my spirit. I cannot expect this hurt to go away and I should not expect it go to away. I can only learn to live with it and accept it. It is part of the fabric that makes me who I am.

As I said, I was able to honour this grief on Thursday night in a safe place.

A sincere thank you to Jenne Perlstein, Meg Orton, Ann Soo and all those on the Discipleship and Education Committee for the October series on death. Thank you also to those who prepared and assisted with the Grief and Loss evening including the Pastoral Team workers who made themselves available.

Claire Foley, 28 October 2018

> 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.

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

We gather on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00pm unless advised otherwise

For details, contact Kimberly Fraser, 0432 415 424.

Meditation

Meditation Groups have concluded for 2018 due to family commitments

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 28th November 2018**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

Our final meeting for 2018 – not to be missed!

Please bring:

1. A favourite Christmas story to share. It can be non text, picturebook, chapter book – whatever you like
2. The name of a book you read this year that still resonates with you.
3. A very small plate of food to share. This gathering is a celebration.

You will also have the opportunity to vote on some books that we might read next year.

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

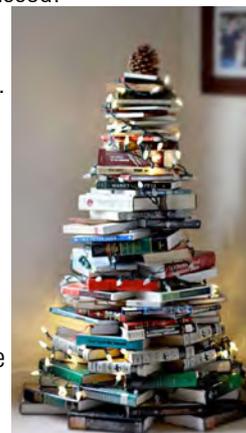
Out and About Group

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

Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Next Distribution Day - **Saturday 17th November**
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

Gifts and Graces

We have been turning our thoughts to how we can be more intentional about recognising the gifts in our community, and connecting them with groups and ministries that will be rewarding and life-giving for them. To that end:

- We have formed a Gifts and Graces task group, to begin to undertake this work.
- We hope to dedicate some space to thinking this through at our next Leaders Retreat.

Children and Youth Worker

The Joint Nominating Committee has been busy at work drafting the position description and other documents for our search for a new CYYA minister.

- A recent special Church Council meeting has affirmed and ratified these documents, so the next step will be a process through Presbytery to find a suitable candidate.
- The position description prioritises identifying a candidate with a deep interest and background in theology, and experience with working with children and families.

Property Committee

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

- 4 Merri Street roof has been repaired.
- Gutters and down pipes have been inspected and cleaned, church remaining
- Hatch above the west doorway between the church and the Olive Way has been repaired so that it can be opened to aid in cooling in hotter weather.
- Lawn mower storage moved to the cage.
- Student house inspection undertaken and items identified to be actioned.
- Additional information provided in relation broadband service requirements at the student houses.
- Kitchen oven has been repaired.
- The external door to the storage cupboard repaired
- The ceiling inside the church entrance has been resecured.
- Church front door has been repaired, it wasn't operating and closing properly.

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. Awaiting an update from Tony Urwin.
- Modification to the ASWC west side door lock etc to make it usable. GMK key to be fitted on the door.

Olive Way

We have concluded the process of transitioning the Olive Way Coordinator role to a Pastor role, and affirmed Peter Blair to continue his work with the Olive Way in that role.

Olive Arts

The Justice and Mission Committee has been busy in recent months instigating and receiving a review of our cooperation with the Art Stop program.

- JAM presented Church Council with their own recommendations arising from this report.
- Church Council affirmed JAM's approach, and looks forward to an ongoing relationship with Arts Stop that is life-giving to both sides.

Other Excellent Things

- We have begun inviting submissions to the 5-year review of our Ministry of the Word.
- We are pleased to see that our congregational finances remain in healthy shape.
- We look forward to the baptism of Jack Bottcher.

Daniel Broadstock

- 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 Gum tree. The cumquat tree is to be removed and one of the maple trees will be planted there.
- The hall bench seats are made from Kauri wood, they are being sold for \$200 per seat the excess seats to be placed on eBay.
- Church gutters and down pipes to be inspected and cleaned
- 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.
- Gas heater on the south and east walls of the hall aren't operating, to be repaired.
- Hatch above the east doorway between the church and the Olive Way to be made operable.
- Student House maintenance items to be attended to; door handles, towel rails, toilet roll holders,
- Student House painting quotes being obtained.
- Student House lighting rearrangements in a bedroom, two new lights and relocated light switch.

Ray Cameron

Worship Committee

We began our October meeting a little earlier to discuss and respond to questions from the review of Ian's first 5 years of ministry. This was an excellent opportunity to reflect on what Ian has brought to the worshipping life of our congregation, things that have been particularly significant, areas for growth and our hopes, goals and visions for the next five years. We shared our responses with Ian when he arrived at the regular meeting time and have now sent them off to the review team.

As always we reflected on the services held since our September meeting and discussed:

- Opportunities and ways of creating space for reflection after worship and the possibility of offering reflective services on every fifth Sunday during the year.
- The potential to find new ways beyond and apart from combined worship to nurture our relationship with the Brunswick Indonesian congregation .
- Possibilities for nurturing new liturgists and prayer leaders - if this interests you join us for Advent Planning on 11th November and Lent Planning (date to be advised for February 2019).

In our opening worship Kirsty invited us to think about all the things that are happening in the world, particularly where people with power take more space and gather more attention to themselves than the beautiful, precious, fragile things of the world that we are called to engage with and pay attention to. We particularly noted the children on Nauru and the beauty of the natural world.

During the rest of the meeting we discussed:

- Preparations for the Celebration of Ministry on 25th November and ways that we might creatively evoke our community of communities during worship
- Planning for Advent - our initial conversation give rise to an overall theme of waiting: 'The whole earth, the whole world is waiting'. Please join us on 11th November to develop this theme further.
- Preparations for the Christmas Eve Pageant - we have a script, a cast and a production team.
- Taper lighting in the Chapel Space - we are grateful to Bruce Findlay for creating a new holder for the Christ Candle after the original one was burnt due to drooping tapers.
- Our worship calendar - see p2 for all the details.

30/9 Pentecost 19 1 John 4:7-8,12; Luke 11:9-11; Psalm 17: 5-8; Revelation 22:12-13, 17, 20; Mark 11:22-25 This fifth Sunday of the month service was a special prayer service. The liturgy was shaped by Bible readings and songs being throughout the service. Ian and Daniel invited the children into a time of prayer using four ways of praying - Wow, Sorry, Thank you and Please.



In his sermon **The Answer to Every Prayer** Ian enquired of our experience of God's answers to our prayer. He explained that *'The Holy Spirit is the answer to our prayer'*. And further that if we're praying to *'the God of Jesus Christ then we're assured of the gift of the Holy Spirit in response to our prayers. And what is that gift? God's own Spirit, God's very being, God's presence with us, Sophia the Christ life in our lives, the life of grace, healing, compassion, peace, justice, hope, pure love. All that God is, gifted to us. And if we're not receiving that is not because God isn't giving it.'* He spoke of Elijah and the writes of Psalms 31 and 46, of the experience of waiting in the silence and the stillness. Concluding Ian invited us all into a time of *waiting, listening, contemplating*; to move to one of the places of prayer in the worship space to offer the prayers of our hearts. We moved around to the font, cross, table and chapel space or stayed in our seats as we sang *Veni Sancte Spiritus*.

Later we celebrated Holy Communion, coming forward to receive the elements.

During notices we rejoiced with James & Courtney as they asked for prayers for their wedding to be celebrated the following Saturday (6/10) at Apollo Bay.



7/10 Pentecost 20 John 11:17-27; Romans

6:1-11 Ian spoke with the children about bringing our difficult feelings (sad, anxious, worried, angry) to God in prayer, just as we are. As we sang 'Nothing is lost on the breath of God', the children lit tapers with Ian to remind us that God is with in the darkness of our difficult feelings and experiences.



Responding to the Death in October series being offered by the Discipleship & Education Committee Ian's sermon focussed on **Dying and Living with Christ**. He asked us '... *what resources does our faith offer to help us face death – our own and death in the world? What place and meaning does our faith give to death?*' Commenting that death is hard to avoid in Christianity he reminded us that it always points us towards life. Ian then invited us into a reflective exercise to give us his impression of the quality of Christ's dying voice from the gospels of Mark, Luke and John saying '*Listen and see if there is a resonance for you – has there has been such a death in your life, spiritually speaking?*' Having offered us these voices he commented '*I like the fact that the dying of Christ is open to interpretation, that we can't pin it down to one – a despairing death, a loving death, a peaceful death.*'

He spoke of the eternal life that we have now in Christ, of being at one with all who have died in Christ, of the way in which death hurts and changes us forever. He concluded '*But through faith, the tears shed are the healing tears that flow from the loving heart of God's compassion, tears of life. I see those tears falling into the Indonesian disaster and in so many other places of terrible loss. May they fall into our hearts to nourish the growth of eternal life.*'



14/10 Pentecost 21 Genesis 7:11-20, 8:6-19, 9:12-17 We welcomed people's pets to worship for Blessing of the Pets (an event we offer every second year). Ian spoke with the children about Noah's Ark, about the animals being held in safety and peace and how we are doing that today. He then commented on Noah sending out a bird to find out if the land had cleared and the bird bringing back an olive leaf. Given that we are surrounded by olive trees he, Amelia and the children then blessed each of our animals with an olive branch and the whole congregation proclaiming 'Peace be with you'.

Ian began his sermon by asking '**Do Animals have souls?**' and was surprised when many of us said yes. He went on to say that he wanted to '*speculate wildly about the nature of the soul this morning*'. He told as about the teachings of the ancient Greek philosopher Plato. He shared radical feminist atheist Linda Hirshman's about Christianity and the platonic soul. Referring to the Voluntary Assisted Dying forum he commented on Rev. Dr. Jason Garoncy's describing '*the idea of the immortal soul as heretical and oppressive*'. Ian went on to explore the implications of Plato's teaching that we have an immortal soul and a mortal body compared with the tribal beliefs of the Bible that a person is an indivisible relational totality. He then showed and commented on clips from the surrealistic comedy 'Cold Souls' in which the lead character weighed down and burdened by his soul. In seeking to relieve himself of this burden he ultimately becomes reconnected with '*the fullness of life and death and birth that is cradled within him and so he is reborn as himself, resurrected if you like, whole body and soul, joy and pain, love and loss because that what it means to have a soul*'. Returning to his original question about animals having souls he concluded '*Well I don't know, ask Plato. All I know is that animals like us are a beloved part of the goodness God has created and which God is loving into embodied wholeness. So God bless all the animals even the human ones in the name of Christ. Amen.*'

After the sermon Amelia Ware offered a prayer of confession during she acknowledged the stress that humans place on creation and confessed the 21 animals native to our south-eastern corner of Australia that are currently in danger of extinction due to habitat loss, introduced species, infectious diseases, fire and climate change.

Helen Burnham offered prayers for the people and invited us to write a word of hope and support on coloured hands which were used to create a rainbow of hope for peace for all creation at the conclusion of the service.



21/10 Pentecost 22 Mark 10:32-45; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c Ian and Daniel invited the children to come and join in singing 'Glory to God' and then invited us all to listen to what Jesus has to say about glory. Daniel wondered with Ian about who might be glorious that has been visiting our city recently - the young royals, Harry and Meghan. Ian commented that Jesus turns this notion of glory upside down for us that he says 'that to become great you must be the servant of all. We sang then about the king who comes to serve 'Kneels at the feet of his friends'.

Ian began his sermon '**Going to Jerusalem**' referencing a song we had been singing throughout worship *'The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit'* commenting that the king is on his way to Jerusalem. He acknowledged Areej worshipping with us and commented on the challenges of the journey that she takes travelling from her home to Jerusalem and examined Jesus' journey. He spoke about Jesus teaching his disciples three times what that journey would lead to and their inability to understand or accept it about the way in which they cling to a different story, one of glory. Responding to Jesus' question *'Are you able to drink the cup that I drink?'* Ian referred to the cup of joy in Psalm 23 and the cup of suffering in Ezekiel 23 and reminded us that even Jesus did not want to drink from the cup of suffering. Ian asked *'... is this the way it has to be? ... Is suffering and injustice inevitable ...?'* He concluded *'Joining Jesus on the journey to Jerusalem is not an invitation to victim-hood or self destruction or glorious military power but a call to courage, hope and faith, a call to trust as Jesus that this is the way to life and peace.'* And he asked if we have the faith to journey with Jesus and our sisters and brothers in that region *'The life of justice and peace that rises even from the tomb of our hope, God's own tomb.'*

After the sermon Ian introduced Areej. She thanked us for our welcome and our sponsorship of the tour. She then presented Ian with a beautiful communion chalice and plate made of olive wood from Jerusalem. See JAM News, p8 for a story about the forum.



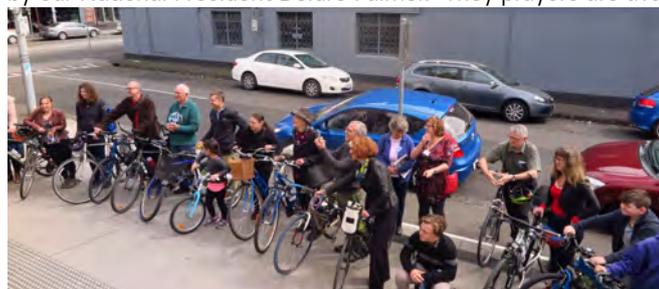
28/10 Pentecost 23 Mark 10:46-52; Psalm 34:1-8 Ian and Helen invited the children to sing the gospel story of the Blind Man with new verses written by Helen. The children were divided into three groups to represent Bartimaeus, the disciples and Jesus using actions for blindness and the way to help sing the song.



What do you want me to do for you? is the question that Jesus asked of Bartimaeus to which he replies *'Let me see again'*. Ian said that this was the right answer commenting that Mark 'presents him as someone for us to model ourselves on', a model of discipleship. Ian then demonstrated how Bartimaeus' story fits into the gospel of Mark as a whole taking us back to the first faulty healing of blindness, reminding us of the disciples' inability to see and the movement from spiritual blindness to insight. He then explained how the chapters (8:22-10:50) serve as a bridge between the two parts of Mark's gospel, the first half in which Jesus' perform acts of power and the second half in which we see him as *'the all vulnerable Christ, rejected, suffering, a victim of injustice and this is open for all to see, like the open eyes of Bartimaeus'*. Ian concluded by returning to Bartimaeus and his healing - *With his fully opened eyes Bartimaeus follows Jesus along the way of the cross, the way of the suffering servant. He knows what's down that road. He's going with open eyes because he's been there before and he's lived it. He already knows that it's only along that way, the way of the cross in company of Christ that he will find fullness of open hearted life, that he will rise above his suffering.'* And he asked us *'So what keeps you back from that way, that journey of Jesus, the one who asks What do you want me to do for you? How might Jesus lead you, lead us, lead the world into open hearted newness of life?'*



After the sermon Ian, Kirsty and Helen offered prayers in response to the Prime Minister's National Apology to victims of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. These prayers were written by our National President Deidre Palmer. They prayers are available on our website in [Sunday Prayers](#) for 28/10 and also [here with an introductory letter](#) from our President.



After worship we gathered out on the steps for our annual Blessing of the Bikes and any other non-motorized forms of wheeled transport.

Sermons and Sunday Prayers are available on our website: <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/sermons-stories/>

Saide Cameron

> Happy Birthday

Sheryl Ashley, Patrick Boreham-Delaney, Tim Budge, Barb Collard, Esther Hollis, Pippa Kramer, Fergus Moorhouse, Elaine Potter, Felix Rugel, Robyn Sampson, Janet Watson-Kruse, Darren White.

If you have not been wished a happy birthday in the Olive Branch this year it's because I don't know which month you were born in. Please email saide.cameron@bigpond.com to be added.



> Preaching Plan

November 4	Graeme Garret Holy Communion	December 2	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion, Advent 1	December 23	Ian Ferguson Advent 4
November 11	Ian Ferguson	December 9	Ian Ferguson Advent 2	December 24	Pageant, 7:00pm Christmas Eve
November 18	Ian Ferguson Baptism - Jack Bottcher	December 12	Ian Ferguson, 7:30pm Blue Christmas	December 24	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion
November 25	Ian Ferguson Celebration of Ministry	December 16	Ian Ferguson Advent 3	December 25	Ian Ferguson Christmas Day

> Lectionary

1/11 All Saints Day	Is 25:6-9	Ps 24	REv 21:1-6a	Jn 11:32-44	W
4/11 Pentecost 23	Ru 1:1-18	Ps 146	Heb 9:11-14	Mk 12:28-34	G
11/11 Pentecost 24	Ru 3:1-5;4:13-17	Ps 127	Heb 9:24-28	Mk 12:38-44	G
18/11 Pentecost 25	1 Sm 1:4-20 1 Sm 2:1-10	Ps 16	Heb 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25	Mk 13:1-8	G
25/11 Christ the King 2	Sm 23:1-7	Ps 132:1-12,(13-18)	Rv 1:4b-8	Jn18:33-37	W

Advent

A season of preparation, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, in which the Church recalls its hope and expectation in the coming of Christ, past, present and future.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel	C
2/12	Advent 1	Jer 33:14-16	Ps 25:1-10	1 Thes 3:9-13	Lk 21:25-36	P
9/12	Advent 2	Mal 3:1-4	Lk 1:68-79	Pjil 1:3-11	Lk 3:1-6	P
16/12	Advent 3	Zep 3:14-20	Is 12:2-6	Phil 4:4-7	Lk 3:7-18	P
23/12	Advent 4	Mic 5:2-5a	Lk 1:46b-55 or Ps 80:1-7	Heb 10:5-10	Lk 1:39-45 (46-55)	P

Christmas

The Christmas - Epiphany season includes Christmas Eve/Day and the twelve days of Christmas. It recalls the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ. The church in this time celebrates the wonder of the incarnation; the season concludes with Epiphany.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel	C
25/12	Christmas Day 1	Is 9:2-7	Ps 96	Titus 2:11-14	Lk 2:1-14 (15-2)	W
	Christmas Day 2	Is 62:6-12	Ps 97	Titus 3:4-7	Lk 2:(1-7) 8-20	W
	Christmas Day 3	Is 52:7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1:1-4(5-12)	Jn 1:1-14	W
30/12	Christmas 1	1 Sm 2:18-20, 26	Ps 148	Col 3:12-17	Lk 2:41-52	W

November Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 – Graeme Garrett HC 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p			10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts Collective 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – D&E C’tee	7:30 – YUCY	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 2:00 – Move your Arts 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church		10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Church Council	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts Collective 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way 6:45 – JAM C’tee		10:00 – Food Co-op
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 – Ian Ferguson Jack’s baptism 11:00 – Celebration of Ministry discussion 5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts Collective 12:00 – Community Dinner 7:30 – Worship C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way		
Reign of Christ 25	26	27	28	29	30	December 1
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 10:45 – Congregational M’g 11:30 – Lunch 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church		10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Property C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts Collective 12:00 – Community Dinner 7:30 – Book Group	10:00 – Olive Way	** – YUCY Getaway ** – YUCY Getaway	** – YUCY Getaway 2:30 – Coffee
Advent 1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts Collective 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way		