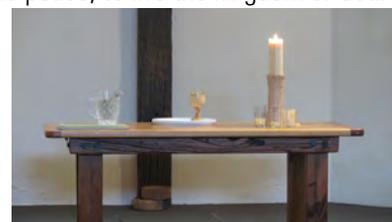


> Celebration of Ministry

During worship on **Sunday 25th November** we celebrated nearly six years of ministry with Ian – a culmination of the recent Presbytery review process. A link to the report from the Review is available at the end of this story, p 6. Ian was inducted as our minister on 10th February 2013. During worship we heard stories, gave thanks and reaffirmed the commitments we made together. We celebrated being called and sent by Jesus to be God’s people working together to offer hope, to love God and our neighbour, to work for justice and peace, to live the kingdom of God.



When a minister is inducted the Bible, chalice and plate and membership rolls are presented. To remind us of this as we prepared to worship God Felix Tall carried and placed the Bible and Daniel Broadstock presented the rolls as Chair of the Congregation. James Balsillie presented the chalice and plate and Gwen Arnold presented a jug of water reminding us of baptism. Both are elders of our congregation.



During Children’s Time Ian invited the children to tell him their favourite thing about church. Here’s some of their responses: pageants, people & how welcoming they are, everything. Five people shared stories to help us remember our five years together as minister and congregation and we were also treated to a delightful video prepared by Tim Winkler aptly titled [‘A Window in the Senior SMP Team Brain’](#). It’s so good you really need to [watch it](#).



Tameka Brown spoke about Ian telling stories with the children through words and movement, of him coming to Good Friday Buns and meetings at their house and of how kind and welcoming he always is to anyone new.

Amelia Ware reminded us of the weaving dance we shared during worship at Church Camp. We created a cross from bush materials together on the clearing. As we moved around in the circle we weaved around



each other. Amelia commented on how joyful this experience was and how it evoked the theme of the camp which was growing together and among one another as part of God’s vine.

Peter Blair made us a video to share his memories. He spoke about a children’s story earlier in the year about Samuel being called which has stayed with their family resulting in them breaking out into song ‘Hush, hush someone’s calling my name’ at random moments. Peter also commented on the steady flow of Olive Way people who have made their home within the congregation.

Michael Cameron shared his appreciation of the Blessing of the Animals services, of being able to bring his snakes for blessing and for the way in which this symbolises how our congregation care for all living things and all creation.



Ian invited David Kamali to come down the front. Together they remembered how special it was when David was baptised, the first of our Persian friends to do so, on 27th October 2013.

Ian’s sermon invited us to reflected on being called and sent, referencing the experience

of the disciples in Mark together with the story of the recent Love Makes a Way action. Make sure you check out his [sermon post](#) on the website.





Later in the service after Prayers of the People we shared a time of Thanksgiving with six people giving thanks for one moment or event from each year that Ian has been our minister. The congregation was invited to write a story on a piece of paper and add it to the rainbow. If you weren't at worship or didn't a chance to do so the pieces of paper will be available near the rainbow in the hall during morning tea for the next couple of weeks. Here I've shared the words said by each person together with a short story offering more background about each of these symbols.

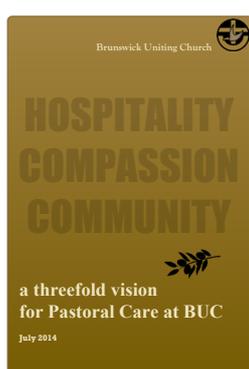


Saide, Glenice, Shawn, Ann, Kirsty, Ian, Lucy

In 2013 we dedicated the baptismal font. We give thanks for the water poured out in baptism, a symbol of Christ's gift through which we are joined to his body, the Church. Offered by Kirsty Bennett, a member of the committee that researched and planned the installation of our baptismal font. Kirsty is also a member of the Worship Committee.



The committee spent many months engaging with the congregation about what we wanted our font to say. We met with three designers and eventually travelled to Rob's Glassworx at St. Andrews from where the font was purchased. The font was dedicated on Easter Sunday 2013 and used for the first time as Ian baptised Bruce and Harry Heathcote.



In 2014 we reviewed our pastoral care ministry. We give thanks for the report which has guided and reshaped this ministry, a symbol of our desire to love and care for each other. Offered by Glenice Cook, a member of the Pastoral Care committee and Pastoral Care Compassion Team.

The Pastoral Committee worked on a review of our Pastoral Care ministry and structures over a six month period. This work included a series of seminars and planning sessions facilitated by Alan Niven, the professor of Pastoral Theology at Stirling College. The report resulted in the formation of the Hospitality, Compassion and Community Teams which now support our [Pastoral Care Ministry](#).

In 2015 we created a rainbow at the Sydney Road Street Party. We give thanks for this rainbow, for the icon that it has become,



a symbol of love and welcome known to many. Offered by Lucy Hardman.

The inspiration for the rainbow arose from our Lenten series that year. Lucy accepted the invitation to set up the weaving of the rainbow on the frame created by Dave Kruse. We bring the rainbow out every year. People seek it out, respond to the invitation to write messages on it and have their photos taken.



In 2016 we created this Pentecost felt as a community. We give thanks for this felt, a symbol of the gift of the Holy Spirit,



which speaks into the heart of our longing for beauty and creativity. Offered by Ann Soo, BUC Arts Co-ordinator

Ann joined the planning team for Pentecost Sunday and as we planned the idea for creating a felt emerged. Ann organised a workshop on the Saturday during which we created the shape. The congregation added to it during worship and then



we gathered on the lawn to bring it all together. The felt is now used regularly during worship, most often to set the table for our celebration of Holy Communion.

In 2017 we redesigned our website. We give thanks for the way in which the website tells the world who we are and what we value, a symbol, in part, of our desire for justice and peace for all. Offered by Saide Cameron, website administrator. Our previous website was managed by Saide and Matthew Cameron. In 2015 Matthew highlighted the need for a new look and a new way of managing the website. We consulted widely with the congregation about what we wanted from our website. Ian, Shawn Whelan and Saide met with Wordpress specialist Bret Salinger over many months with the website being launched in June of that year. Since that time many people have commented favourably on our [website](#).



In 2018 we celebrated the Assembly's decision on marriage by placing this cake in the window. We give thanks for this opportunity to say yes to love, a symbol of our desire for everyone to be gathered in to God's community of love. Offered by Shawn Whelan, Chair of Church Council.

On the [LGBTQI page](#) of our website we offer the following statement: *The church is a diverse community in many ways, and Brunswick UC is no exception. We are rich and poor, old and young, Anglo and (increasingly) from other cultures. And our sexualities are as diverse as our personalities. Here at BUC you'll meet lesbian and gay, bisexual and queer, and supportive straight friends – and whoever you are, we hope you'll feel right at home.* The Church Council and congregation takes this affirmation seriously and feel deeply honoured that so many people of diverse backgrounds claim BUC as their spiritual home.



Concluding the service Shawn invited us to **recommit to the ministry** we share with Ian using the following statements adapted by Ian from the Induction service.

Shawn (addressing Ian):

Ian, at your induction you were called to be a servant and a shepherd in this place. You undertook to study the Scriptures, to proclaim the Gospel, and to preside at the sacraments here, exercising pastoral care of the family of God, and seeking God's face in the neighbour and the stranger in the wider community. This congregation was presented to you as ministers with you in the gospel, and you undertook to pray for them. Do you recommit to this call today?

Ian: **I do, God being my helper.**

Later during the **Congregational Meeting** Shawn shared the process for the Review of Ministry. This process was overseen by Rev Peter Gaydor-White, Essendon UC, on behalf of the Presbytery. Committees responded to a series of questions and approximately 28 people attended the Informal Conversation after worship on 18th November. The responses were overwhelmingly positive (of course).

Shawn (addressing the congregation):

At Ian's induction, you the people of this congregation, were called to take part in the public worship of God, to contribute to the work of God as you are able, and to endeavour to make a Christian witness in the community by word and action. You undertook to honour Ian as your pastor and leader; to listen for God's word in his preaching; to welcome him into your homes; to provide for him that which is necessary for his physical welfare; and to support him with your love and prayers. Do you recommit to this call today?

People: **We do, God being our helper.**

Shawn moved that 'The congregation express its intention to extend Ian's ministry for a further five years'. This motion received rapturous consensus. Ian responded thanking everyone for their support and endorsement of his ministry. He commented that it had been a joyous five, nearly six years, and that he is definitely not wanting to go anywhere else.

A copy of the [Review of Ministry report](#) is available [here](#).

Saide Cameron