

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

March 2019, Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

## > Meditation

### Reflection on Matthew 18:3

In December I did an intensive on the Nurture and Spiritual Guidance of Children. This is some writing in response to Matt 18:2-3:

*He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven"*

For those of us who love children, the words of Matthew 18:3 are a rich invitation. The words and actions of Jesus in putting a child among the quarrelling disciples is a challenge. How might it call to us at BUC?

The challenge offered here is to change and become like children. When I discussed the original Greek with our wonderful guest preacher Sunny Chen, he explained that this is no metaphorical 'becoming like': this verse is about *actual* becoming. So what is it that is unique about childhood that we must recover?

When the disciples ask who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, Jesus says whoever becomes humble like this child: We are called to join the little ones. We are asked to divest ourselves of our colonial mindsets and make radical lifestyle choices. We are called to humility in our thinking.

Children are always 'becoming' – they are growing, learning, building new pathways in their brains and new cells in their bodies every day. A child that ceases to grow is gravely ill, but the same is true for us, biologically, emotionally and spiritually. Modern neuroscience is clear about the dynamic nature of the brain and we are still learning just how profoundly childhood experience shapes the whole person. Childhood is truly formative – don't stop growing!

What else does it mean to become like children? Perhaps the second invitation is to recover what it means to be in community: The child is 'in the midst' because that's where children belong: *In the 50s a psychiatrist called Winnicott captured this when he wrote "There is no such thing as a baby. (there is) a baby and someone. A baby cannot exist alone, but is*

*essentially part of a relationship"*<sup>1</sup> But doesn't this also speak a truth to adults – can there be such a thing as a human alone? One of the things I love about BUC is how central children are to our life together. Another invitation from the child in the middle is to be in relationship with community.

There are many other ways we might 'become like a child': Play is often lost to adults, and yet just like being in relationship, play is something humans need to do to be whole. This is deeply bound up with that creativity by which we might reflect the creator.

Finally, in the call to 'become like a child' I hear an invitation to openness. Children invite us to drop our masks – Winnicott's 'false self' – and be real with them. They sense genuineness.

They invite us to a different kind of power – the kind of presence one only attains by being oneself. To be utterly oneself, to be open, to be present without masks or ego; in what kind of simple power of presence do we stand when we catch glimpses of that? It is the radiance of a child being themselves.

Is Jesus doing what some call an 'action parable' when he sets a child in the middle?<sup>2</sup> In recent years there has been a movement known as the Child Theology Movement. This verse is their key text. They invite us to try to always have the thought of a child sitting near them when we make decisions as a church or reflect on theology.

Taking this thought even further – what does it mean to have children meaningfully involved in decision making? All of us who have done Culture of Safety training know that one of Victoria's seven Child Safe Standards calls for children's participation and empowerment. In the big picture strategy planning and in the details of what we do in our programs, how can these conversations be meaningful?

1 Winnicott, D. W., "The Child and the Outside world", 1957 in Winnicott, et al. The collected works of D.W. Winnicott. Oxford New York: Oxford University Press, 2017

2 Willmer & White, Entry point, 2013, p50

We are grateful to Helen Rowe for resourcing our thinking in this area – during this week she sent a link to a helpful document from NSW about ‘Engaging children and young people in decision making’. I just love how thoughtful we are in this area, and never take for granted the presence of children and young people among us.

*He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”*

I wonder what you hear in this verse, and how the child invites us to ‘become’?

In calling a new and (nearly) full-time Children, Youth and Families Pastor we are taking young people seriously. We look

forward to Dave Hall helping us to reflect about, grow with and enjoy our diverse and very fabulous children and be with them ‘in our midst’

For me, to become like a child is to keep on growing. It is to step outside the constructions of empire and ego and reawaken within us the joy of being ourselves. To become like a child is to participate in the upside-down values of the kingdom. It is to access our best knowing through play, creativity and openness. It is to know that we don’t know everything but are embraced by the one who puts children in the middle as invitation, challenge and gift.

In conversation!

JJ (Janet Watson Kruse),  
Children & Families Interim worker

## > Worship during Lent

The worship committee offered an open invitation to our regular February meeting to prepare for worship during Lent, to discern a theme and common elements from which the liturgist and preacher would plan individual services.

We were delighted to welcome Ken Morrison, Jenne Perlstein and Jim Kilpatrick to our meeting which we began by sharing delicious A1 Bakery pastries and falafel balls together with salad, and later, cake.

We reflected on what we ‘usually do’ each year during Lent

- no Christ Candle to be lit, with taper lighting during prayers in the Chapel space from a small oil lamp,
- no flowers, instead some other visual element,
- a focus on prayers of confession as a response to the sermon,
- a sung Kyrie

We agreed that these changes will be used again this year. We will also sing ‘Listen to the word which God has spoken’ again each week.

A new element will be setting aside the worship space after worship for quiet prayer and reflection. We know that lots of people like to stay and chat in the space after worship but will be asking for this to happen in other parts of our buildings just for these five Sundays.



In your hands, by Ann Soo



Respect, by Bev

Our theme this year will be Respect. This theme is, in part, a response to the Respect Postcard Project developed by the Olive Arts Collective for the Olive Way. It is also a response to the long list of Royal Commissions that have been held and continue to be held around us. Listening is a posture that we take in the call to show respect. Showing respect means listening to the voices of each other and the vulnerable.

We want to tap into the listening that is happening in our society through the Royal Commissions. Each week we will reflect on one or more of these Royal Commissions and consider our response.

The Discipleship and Education Committee is taking up a resource offered by the Centre for Theology and Ministry ‘Lenten Reflections 2019’. This resource offers activities to engage in and questions to reflect on in our homes, individually or with our families. Tapping into this during worship we will offer an invitation for the whole congregation to engage in a shared activity at the same time each day. We love the idea of everyone doing the same thing at the same time in response to our theme of Respect. We will invite you to set an alarm for 1pm to participate in this shared action.

We’ll be publishing further information each week in all our forms of publicity. Stay tuned!!

Saide Cameron

## > Worship Calendar

### March

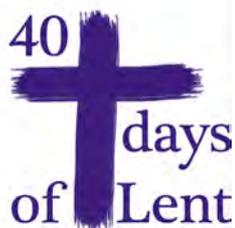
#### Ash Wednesday



Join us for worship on **6th March**, 7:30pm as we gather to begin the season of Lent. Weather permitting, this service is held in our back garden.

#### Season of Lent

A season of preparation and discipline that begins with Ash Wednesday (**6th March**) and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday (**20th April**). During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the Church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship.



Our theme for **Lent 2019 is Respect**. We will listen in response to the call to show respect. See Worship News p2 for more information.

### April

#### Ian on leave

We will welcome Geoff Thompson as our preacher and to preside over Holy Communion on **7th April**. Geoff is a member of our congregation and Co-ordinator of Studies: Systematic Theology at Pilgrim Theological College, Centre of Theology & Ministry.

### Holy Week

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** on **14th April**. We begin worship at 9:30 as usual, walk to St. Ambrose Catholic Church to share an ecumenical service and return to BUC with the Baptist congregation to conclude worship.



### Carlynné's Ordination

Carlynné Nunn candidated for the Ministry of the Word from our congregation three years ago and having completed her studies has accepted a call to the Ballarat South congregation. She will be ordained at BUC on **Saturday 16th March** 4pm with a party to follow. See [all the details here](#) or on the noticeboard.



### Commissioning of Elders

At the Congregational Meeting in November we elected new elders: Karlien Kok, Kimberly Fraser and Amelia Ware, and also re-elected Daniel Broadstock. They will be commissioned for their role during worship on **17th March**.

### Welcoming Ceremony

Our first [Welcoming Ceremony](#) for the year will be offered during worship on **Sunday 31st March**. This is an opportunity for people new to the congregation to share your story and name Brunswick UC as your spiritual home.



We gather for worship on

- **Maundy Thursday**, 18th April, **7:30pm**,
- **Good Friday**, 19th April **9:30am**,
- **Easter morning**, **21st April**, **7:00am** and **9:30am**.

More details next month. The worship committee will again hold an open planning session at the start of our regular monthly meeting, **20th March**, 7:00pm in the Youth Hall.

### May

#### Induction & Commissioning

Details for the Presbytery led service during which Dave Hall will be inducted into the CYYA placement are being finalised. During this service Peter Blair and Dave Hall will be commissioned as our Olive Way and CYYA Pastors respectively. 'Pencil' **Sunday 5th May**, 1pm, in your diaries just to make sure you are free.

## > Index

1. Meditation
2. Meditation, Worship during Lent
3. Worship Calendar
4. Sharing our Faith
5. Special Events, Annual General Meeting, Culture of Safety
6. JNC News
7. JNC News
8. Pastoral Care News
9. CYYA News
10. CYYA News
11. CYYA News, Communication News,
12. D&E News, JAM News
13. JAM News - FUNdraising
14. JAM News - Olive Way, SRSP
15. JAM News - BUC Arts
16. Regular Events
17. Reports: Council, Finance
18. Reports: Finance
19. Reports: Pastoral Care, Property
20. Reports: Worship
21. Reports: Worship
22. Happy Birthday, Preaching Plan, Lectionary
23. Diary

## > Sharing our Faith

### Losing my religion, and the conversion therapy report

The other day I threw out my Bible. Into the rubbish bin. It was a special edition published by Youth With A Mission, with sidenotes and biographies promoting YWAM teachings. Had it not been so, it might have escaped its fate. My current discomfort with our sacred text may pass, but not my opinion of the cultic organisation where I wasted fourteen years.

I've stopped identifying as Christian, and am experimenting with other labels like 'post-Christian'. The causes are many, but there has been one major factor: the current attitude of conservative Christians towards the LGBTIQ community. This runs deep and wide: from the debate in the UCA about use of church property for gay and lesbian weddings; to the rancour and cheap political point-scoring of the SSM postal survey; to the government-sanctioned homophobia and transphobia of supposedly Christian societies in the Americas, Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere.

It includes the judgement of my Christian ex-friends and relatives when I separated from my wife and began living as a gay man. I tell myself that they would rather believe the questionable words of a man two thousand years ago, than the lived experience of their friend and cousin – the person they've known, and loved, and seen struggling to live up to those words.

Therein lies the key aspect of my problem with the text. The Bible has been the instrument of so much behavioural control exerted by others over my life, that now I can't bear to engage with it. My partner, who identifies as ex-born again, maintains that Jesus was never a historical figure. I frankly don't have the stomach to debate that, or defend my position, or even define my position. But I do keep coming to church to be with my community, and to be encouraged to subvert the structures in which we live, and yes for that encouragement to come through stories from the text. Thank goodness for skilled preachers like Ian who can point out the gold among the dross.

I just find it too painful to identify as Christian, when so many who do are judgemental and condemning of the LGBTIQ community, both here and internationally.

But why now? Why am I losing my religion now, when I endured so many years of homophobia in the church from the 1980s to the 2010s, and kept identifying as Christian then?

Part of the reason is my experience with conversion therapy, and in particular a report on the practice for which I was interviewed, and of which I have spoken at BUC. Preventing Harm, Promoting Justice is published by the Human Rights Law Centre, Latrobe Uni, and Gay & Lesbian Health Victoria. It provides a unique history of religious conversion therapy in Australia, a moving analysis of the effects of therapy on victim-survivors, a thorough review of international responses to conversion practices, a clear overview of relevant state and federal regulation, and a helpful set of recommendations to close the gaps in legal and health protections. I commend it to you as a sound, reliable and important work.

Conversion therapy is premised on a particular reading of scripture: God only sanctions the lives and

the bedrooms of the heterosexual and the cisgendered. All other orientations and identifications are sexual brokenness. 'Therapeutic' efforts to heal this brokenness in religious settings include prayer, ministry, study, self-discipline, and in extreme cases shock therapies. Interestingly, the church only dreamt up this pseudo-psychological approach in the 1970s, when mainstream psychology and psychiatry accepted homosexuality, and stopped calling it a mental illness. These change efforts have all been thoroughly discredited by scientific studies, which show that nothing is effective in changing orientation or gender identity. Instead the so-called therapies cause great harm. The Human Rights Law Centre report contains much detail about the psychological and spiritual damage that these change efforts inflict on victim-survivors. My story is one of its fifteen stories of self-loathing, recrimination, shame, blame, depression, and in many cases self-harm.

What shocked me most about and around the report was the fact that Christian churches today, in Australia, are still practising conversion therapy. And they are reluctant to stop. (The authors and publishers sought to respond not just with calls for more regulation, but also education and awareness raising, as they didn't want to push the practice underground.) I could excuse the church for its ignorance in the 1980s, but now? 2019? When the report came out, I sent messages to my relatives and ex-friends encouraging them to engage with it and discuss it in their churches. I received no response, but I guess I should not be surprised.

As if I needed further proof of my current assessment of conservative Christianity, I had dinner on Friday with friends from one of my previous churches, a huge mainline evangelical church. They were dismayed that the church is still and constantly stuck on denouncing queerness. The last straw for them was a whole church retreat day on LGBTIQ issues. It included a speaker – a gay man who has chosen to be celibate. (Don't get me started on that old chestnut of "it's ok to be gay but not to act on it"! ). My friends and I agreed: can't everyone just move on?

In closing, may I say thanks, and thanks again, to my friends at BUC. Among this Christian community, LGBTIQ issues are so yesterday. Apart from engaging positively in the SSM debate, everyone moved on years ago, to discussing things that are so much more relevant and important. Like justice, climate, and the plight of people seeking asylum. That's the kind of religion I don't want to lose.



## > Special Events

- Sydney Rd. Street Party, [3/3](#), p.14
- Ash Wednesday, [6/3](#), p.3
- Elders (Church Council Commissioning), 17/3 p.3
- Olive Way Review presentation, [17/3](#), p.14
- Lenten FUNdraising Stalls, 24&31/3, p.13
- MMM Dinners, [29-31/3](#), p.10
- Welcoming Ceremony, [31/3](#), p.3
- Palm Sunday Ecumenical Walk & Worship, 14/4, p.3
- Palm Sunday Rally, [14/4](#), p.15
- Nourish in Holy Week, 17/4, p.9
- Maundy Thursday, 18/4, p.3
- Good Friday, 19/4. p.3
- Good Friday Hot Cross Buns & Soup Lunch, [19/4](#), p.9
- Easter Day Dawn Service & Breakfast, 21/4, p.3,8
- Easter Day Holy Communion, 21/4, p.3
- Induction & Commissioning, 5/5, *to be confirmed*, p.3
- Church Camp, [24-26/5](#), p.8

## > Annual General Meeting

Our [Annual General Meeting](#), held after worship on **Sunday 24th February**, was attended by 48 people with 21 apologies offered. The meeting was chaired by Shawn Whelan with minutes taken by Saide Cameron.



Shawn welcomed everyone to the meeting and affirmed the Acknowledgment of Country offered during worship. Ian offered an opening prayer. Shawn then explained the consensus process and voting rights.

The first item of business was presentation of the Annual Reports. Our [Olive Harvest](#) included 31 fabulous reports which Shawn presented in turn for comments. The Olive Harvest was received by consensus.

Linda Wannan (Treasurer) and Shawn Whelan (Council Chair) presented the Financial Report and 2019 Budget respectively. The report and budget were emailed prior to the meeting and

are available in the Members section of our website. Presenting the report Linda commented in detail on, among other matters, our secure financial situation and the factors which contributed to the \$34,000 surplus compared with the budgeted \$10,000 deficit. Shawn presented the budget noting the Council's financial policy and strategy and plans for the Merri Project.

Providing a brief update from Council Shawn commented in the final stages of the process for Peter Blair to become the Olive Way Pastor, preparations for the Induction and Commissioning Service for Dave Hall and Peter Blair, and again, the Merri Project

The election for Congregation Office Bearers resulted in the following people being elected as indicated

- Chair - Kate Scull
- Secretary - Saide Cameron (*noting that there is an open offer to mentor anyone interested in taking on this role in the future*)
- Presbytery Representative - Kate Scull, with one vacancy remaining

Shawn thanked everyone for attending, Ian closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting concluded at 12:30 having begun at 11:10. We adjourned to the Olive Way for lunch.

**Saide Cameron**



## > Culture of Safety

### Culture of Safety Contact Person

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

### Congregational Meeting

The CYYA Joint Nominating Committee requested that a Congregational meeting be held after worship on **Sunday 10th February**.

The meeting was attended by 59 people with 4 apologies offered. Daniel Broadstock (chair of the congregation) welcomed the Joint Nominating Committee - John Buckley, Ron Rosinsky, Claire foley, Anita Brown-Major and Colin Hunter - to share the story of their process and deliberations and to present the name of the candidate to the meeting.

During the discussion and question time the work of our Interim CYYA Ministry workers - Janet Hogan (Youth), Valentina Satvedi-Leydon (Student House), Janet Watson Kruse (Children & Families), was strongly affirmed. Their invaluable work was acclaimed by consensus and with applause. There will be a period of handover for the new CYYA Pastor with our interim workers.

### A final update on a new full time ministry position

#### A Pastor focused on the Children and Families, Youth and Young Adults (CYYA) of BUC

The Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) is very pleased to provide you with this (final) update.



Anita, Ron, Claire, Colin, John

The members of the JNC were John Buckley (Presbytery Rep), Ron Rosinsky (Presbytery Liaison Person), Claire Foley (Church Council Rep), Anita Brown-Major (Chair of CYYA committee), and Colin Hunter (Student House rep).

We held a committee meeting on 30 January 2019. At that meeting, a motion was passed, unanimously, requesting Daniel Broadstock (our Congregational Chair) convene a meeting of the congregation. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the JNC to present a name for consideration in filling a second ministry placement for our CYYA.

The meeting was held **Sunday 10 February 2019** in the church and was very well attended. The JNC brought the following information to the meeting:

Daniel formally thanked the members of the JNC for their work. Please see the report to follow for a full discussion of the committee's work and the name of the candidate.

Ian closed the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Saide Cameron



#### History

Anita provided a little of the story leading up to the decision.

- Some time ago, BUC had started with two workers: Julie Perrin working 30 hours a week for youth group, family support and Sunday Morning Program. We had a second worker who combined work in the Olive Way and Student House. Since then there have been various models of different workers
- Julie resigned from her 1/2 time position in 2017. This was followed by a long process of looking for suitable candidates. It was found to be difficult; asking someone to come to the congregation and worship with us when they were working for only 20 hours a week; and no-one was found. Anika Jensen who was working as Youth Leader and Student House Support Worker then informed us of her resignation in early 2018
- At this point discussions began with Church council regarding the decision to 'back ourselves' with a full time placement.

Colin gave an overview about the process that was followed over the last nine months:

#### JNC process

- At the congregational meeting on 20 May 2018 it was announced that Church Council intended to move towards calling a CYYA Minister. The JNC was appointed at the congregational meeting on 5 August 2018 with the brief to pursue the appointment of a Children and Youth Pastor/Minister.

- John chaired the JNC meetings held on average monthly, to define the role – e.g. could one full time position realistically cover Children, Youth, Young Adults and Student House? In consultation with Church council we developed a Congregation Profile and Terms of Placement, and a Position Description for the Minister/Pastor placement. We placed a very high value on the need for a rigorous theological education as the appointee would have pastoral care of people in the most formative stages of faith development.
- On 24 October 2018 Church Council approved these documents. On 30 October Colin and Ron met with the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee and received a very warm affirmation of the proposal.
- In early December we received a name from the Synod Pastoral Placements Committee and followed this up with meetings with the candidate in December and mid-January.
- On 30 January, following the receipt of reference checks and a conversation between the candidate and Ian, the JNC concluded that they would issue an invitation to the candidate to put his name to this congregational meeting, which he accepted.

Colin then presented the name of the proposed new Pastor:

### The candidate ...

The name of the candidate was Dave Hall. Dave is a member of this congregation and well known to many of you. Here is Colin's snapshot of him:

- Dave is 45 years old, his partner is Fran Barber, a UCA minister of the Word. They have three children aged 13 (almost 14), 11 and 9.
- He has a Bachelor of Business in Tourism (Victoria Uni), a Grad Dip in education (ACU), and a Bachelor of Theology (University of Divinity).
- Committed to continuing education through UCA code of ethics training every year; Peter Vardy conferences on philosophy, religion and ethics; Harvard online Visible Thinking course. So, Dave is committed to professional development and life-long-learning.
- His work experience over the last twenty years comprises ten years as Synod NCYC assistant coordinator, youth ministry, frontier services and mission planning. From January 2009 to the present, Dave has been chaplain at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School (PEGS). He also has had volunteer roles in youth ministry and is currently the West Footscray Junior Cricket coordinator and coach and the Junior Football umpire and trainer. Working with children and youth has been his life including being a dedicated and devoted dad.

- Dave's greatest satisfactions in ministry have included using the curriculum to help students explore Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism; preparing and leading worship together with the other school chaplain; seeing students grow in their appreciation of Jesus and 'heroes of the faith'; offering pastoral care to students and staff, particularly in times of grief; coordinating the social justice program and seeing students catch the vision and become leaders themselves.

His passion for the students at PEGS, for the Gospel, for social justice, particularly for indigenous peoples, was palpable and we can anticipate that he will bring these values and qualities with him into the role of Pastor to children and their families, to young people and young adults.

### Gender

Anita continued:

Early on and before this process began Ian had pointed out that when filling any of the rolls it would be good to note that the two permanent positions (Minister of the Word and Olive Way) were both taken by males and that two of the main Church council roles were currently held by males. This was discussed explicitly and for a long time in the JNC process, even before we gained a name thru the synod. We have wrestled with this and want the congregation to know that in endorsing Dave the JNC completely understand that for the first time in a very long time there will not be any paid females in the congregation.

There have been some recommendations put to Church council in this regard.

-----

A time of questions followed after which the secret ballot vote was taken. Dave Hall was affirmed as our candidate for the position of CYA Pastor.

The JNC extended sincere thanks to our three interim workers: Janet Watson Kruse, Valentina Satvedi Leydon and Janet Hogan. This was affirmed with rousing applause from the congregation.

Speaking personally, I would like to acknowledge how privileged I felt to work with the other members of the JNC. Our team shared some amazing gifts and graces: wise counsel; hard working, collaborative, prayerful, attuned to others, respectful and more. Our final meeting seemed a little sad to know our job was almost complete: Colin Hunter (the wise and gentle one) led us in a beautiful prayer of thanks for the process and the enjoyment of working with each other, and a blessing on each of us individually. A lovely way to finish this pathway.

We offer our prayers of welcome to Dave Hall for this next chapter of his life within the amazing congregation of BUC.

**Claire Foley**



## > Pastoral Care News

### Community

#### Working Bee & Sausage Sizzle

A very enthusiastic group of people weeded, planted, pruned, painted, fixed, repaired, tidied and sorted after worship on **17th February**. So much work done and so very satisfying. Midway through the work we enjoyed a sausage sizzle and fresh fruit. Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun of working together.



#### AGM 'Bring a plate to share'

After the very informative Annual General Meeting on **24th February** we gathered in the Olive Way to share lunch. A very pleasant way to round off a Sunday morning.

#### MMM Dinners

The Community Team invites you to 'Marvellously Munchable Dinners (and Lunch) in March. The dinners and Sunday lunch to be held over the weekend of **29th-31st March** are a lovely opportunity to share a meal in the comfort of someone's home. Invitations will be available soon - **SAVE THE DATE** - and enjoy yet another way to be in community.

#### Hot Cross Buns & Soup Lunch

After worship on **Good Friday, 19th April**, we gather to spend time together enjoying home made hot cross buns and beautiful soups (thank you Ray and Alistair).



Everyone is welcome to the home of Adrian & Anita, 11 Hellers St. Brunswick from noon. **BYO drinks and chairs.**

#### Easter Day Breakfast

Between the Dawn and Holy Communion services on **Easter Day, 21st April**, a simple breakfast will be offered.

#### Church Camp

Put the weekend of **24th-26th May** in your calendar **NOW** and come along to Adekate for a wonderful weekend away.

Let us know if you want to join the planning committee. More details soon.

**Saide Cameron**

## > Children Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

### Sunday Morning Program

First of all, we're excited to hear that Dave Hall is coming - yay for Dave! We're sure he will bring a great energy to the Children and Youth space.

Giant thanks to the whole Matthews family crew and Terry Towelling and the Tanktops covers band for their lovely hospitality and rockin' musicianship. The Pool Party was a heap of fun and we raised over \$500 for Godly Play training. Yippee!



God with us on the path - in the rough places & smooth

SMP has started in a great way - we

had our biggest morning ever with 26 kids on the first Sunday of term. Now we are looking for your help!

We have identified that we need some more leaders in the middle group - our year 3-6s

They are a special group and we combine fun and making with reflection. Everyone who leads brings their own special mojo to the role.

This is how it works: First, you and I have a cuppa and find out if there's a fit for the program. Of course there's screening, which we take seriously, and a really excellent handbook. We provide ongoing support.

- Every term we have an online roster that people fill in according to their availability - usually around 3 sessions per term (or 2 if that's what they can do).

- The week before the class, we email you some pretty comprehensive resources based on the reading of the week. There will be storytelling ideas, craft suggestions, prayers and games. You pick and modify what's right for you and the group, or you might get inspired by the material to present things a unique way.
- You can access the riches of our fabulous craft stores, and be reimbursed if you need other materials. You might like to cook, play games, do music or art with the kids. It's seriously good fun.
- You will have a fabulous assistant for support on the day. We check in & see how you went.
- We endeavour to get together about once a term for a shot-in-the-arm training.

If this is not your bag, I invite your thoughts on who you think would be great in this role. Just at the moment we need leaders in particular but we would welcome you as an assistant too!

... Finally just a heads up that we're running a lovely storytelling session called Nourish for Primary aged kids with Julie Perrin on the Wednesday of Holy Week 17th April. Stay tuned for more details or take the survey here - [Brief Survey re Nourish](#) 1-3 mins

**JJ Watson Kruse,**

Interim Children & Families Worker



Love bracelet

### YUCY Camp

A couple of weeks ago the young teenagers of Brunswick and Fairfield Uniting Churches went to Queenscliff for an overnight camp. It was a really fun and special time together. We hung out at the beach, watched movies, ate marshmallows and had a guitar singalong, played lots of games together and got creative making a YUCY banner. It was great to build and strengthen the relationships between each of us, and to begin to explore the identity of who we are and what we're all about. There were twelve campers and three leaders in total. Everyone was great at getting stuck into the adventure together and we shared a lot of laughs. 10 out of 10 would go again. A big thanks to all those involved!

**Janet Hogan,** Interim Youth Support Worker



## SMP Blessing

The Sunday Morning Program began on **3rd February** with our traditional blessing and commissioning ceremony. Children starting primary and secondary school received a gift as did children moving into the upper years of primary school. New Preps received a lovely children's book from the Wemmicks series, year 3s received their own El Salvador nature themed cross and year 7s received their own Bible



The congregation, parents and SMP leaders and assistants made the following commitments, shared here to allow and encourage all of us to share the commitment to this ministry

### *To congregation:*

Here at BUC we have committed ourselves to implementing the Keeping Children Safe Policy of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. I invite you to reaffirm that commitment now.

Together as a congregation will you continue to listen, care and work with our children and leaders to safeguard the vulnerable from abuse and neglect, and to promote their safety and well-being? **We will, for this is God's desire for all creation.**

Remembering that it takes a whole congregation to raise a child in the faith, do you commit yourself to the support of our congregation's children's Christian education program? **We do.**

And do you undertake to pray for the leaders and children and to ensure adequate resources are made available for this ministry? **We do.**

### *To parents:*

Recognising the partnership between this congregation and you in the Christian education of your children will you undertake to teach your children by example, and ensure they have opportunity to partake in this program, that they may grow into disciples of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

### *To leaders:*

Will you accept the responsibilities and privileges of teaching our children the way of Jesus in our Children's education ministry?

**We will, God being our helper.**

Will you be diligent in prayer for the children, prepare well and use your creativity and skills to the best of your God given ability?

**We will, God being our helper.**

## Student House Blessing

During worship on **24th February** we welcomed Charlotte Pitt as our newest member of the Student House Committee and blessed the program for a new year. Valentina Satvedi Leydon, Interim Student House Support Worker, began by sharing that we have now offered this program for 20 years - a cause for celebration and thanksgiving. She thanked the congregation for our love and prayers and for the various ways we have supported the program. Valentina spoke briefly about the intentions of the program: to provide a place for young people who are engaged in tertiary studies moving from rural Victoria, interstate and overseas to live and study in intentional Christian Community, for the students to be mentored and nurtured in the Christian faith and to find a home in the broader Brunswick UC community of faith.

Valentina introduced the five students who were present who spoke briefly about their studies and involvement in the program. She also acknowledged the three absent students. There are currently two vacancies in the program. If you know someone who might be interested or looking for student accommodation please let them know and direct them to the page on the website - [Student House Program](#)

The Student House Program is supported by a committee: James Balsillie, Courtney Rohde, Ann Soo, Kimberly Fraser.

Students live in either the Green House (G) or the Orange House (O) at 2/278 Brunswick Rd. Brunswick.

**(O) Charlotte Pitt** - from Sydney, studying a Musical Theatre at the Associated Studios Australia at the Melbourne dance centre, a new course originally from London which is now being offered in Australia. She shared her excitement at starting the next day.

**(G) Qulian Goff** - from Lakes Entrance, has been living in the Student house for a year, have graduated with a Bachelor of Paramedicine from Victoria University and is staying for another six months or so

**(O) Samantha Sciluna** - from Stradie, studying final year of primary school teaching and joined the SH program part way through last year.

**(O) Elizabeth Stoel** - from Geelong, finishing a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne Univeristy with a major in Computer Science and has lived in the Student Houses for a year.

**(G) Jason Kang** - from Shepparton, studying Biology at Melbourne University, has been in Student House for a year and is looking forward to another two years.

-----

**(G) Briana Bartely**, studying primary school teacher at ACU, in her fourth year with us

**(G) Cicely Yuexin Xiang**, from China, Information Systems Masters Degree at Melbourne University, back for a second year

**(G) Beth Davey**, studying Law & Global Studies at ACU, returning for a third year having been away for part of the time.

As with the SMP Blessing we made promises and commitments

*To the congregation:*

Will you offer God's welcome to these students, and receive the same from them?

**With God's help we will.**

*To the students:*

Will you receive God's welcome from this congregation, and offer the same to them?

**With God's help we will.**



James, Courtney, Ian, Valentina, Charlotte, Quilan, Samantha, Elizabeth, Jason

*To congregation:*

In response to God's welcome of us all, will you support and walk with these students on our shared journey of discipleship?

**With God's help we will.**

*To the students:*

In response to God's welcome of us all, will you explore your faith in community with your fellow students and alongside the other members of this congregation?

**With God's help we will.**

**Saide Cameron**

## > Communication News

### The Olive Pages

The Olive Pages (Directory) is the collection of contact details for all people within the congregation. It will be updated during February and will be published on **Sunday 10th March**.

If you have recently changed any of your details (address, phone numbers, emails) please let me know. Otherwise you can simply check the copies in the hall during Morning Tea to either update or add your information.

The Directory will be distributed using the Olive Branch email & printed copy groups. If you are in the former group and wish to receive a printed copy please let me know as soon as possible.

Simply contact [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com) to let me know what you prefer.

### Name Tags

They are so wonderfully useful. Here's a few examples

- You can confidently say hello to someone using their name
- New people and visitors know, at least by name, who they are talking to
- Name tags promote a feeling of belonging

If you have one please wear it. If you want one please email or call Saide - [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com), 0407 096 743. Choose your colour - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink. If you want to colour co-ordinate with more than one colour just ask!

### Photoboard

The Photoboard has been updated with photos of our new Elders - Amelia, Kimberly and Karlien. Have a look at the board when you are worship some time and see how many of our Elders you actually recognize. You can also see their photos on our website '[Meet the Team](#)' page and find out the various commitments and ways all our Elders involved in the life of the congregation.



### Website

A wealth of information awaits you on our website. Start at the home page, delve deeper into opportunities for getting involved, explore worship, growing in faith, community and social action.

Join the Members area to learn about our committee structure, read stories, find out how to get reimbursed for costs on the Finance page, find the person you are looking for on 'Who's Who'.

Ask how you can get involved in supporting the website work.

Questions - Contact Saide Cameron, Communications Coordinator, [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com)

## > Discipleship & Education News

---

### Lent Activities 2019

Lent is a 6 week period of prayerful reflection and preparation for the celebration of Easter.

#### Personal Reflection

You are invited to follow a reflection guide prepared by the Centre for Theology and Ministry. It contains daily thoughts, prayers and reflections, and a weekly "household activity". Printed copies will be available on Sunday mornings, and [digital copies can be downloaded here](#).

#### Join a Group

There will be groups convened for 4 weeks during Lent in which you can come together to discuss your experiences and reflections with others. If you are interested in being part of such a group please put your name on the sign up sheet on Sunday

morning or email Ian your availability ([iferguson@icloud.com](mailto:iferguson@icloud.com) – please note whether you would prefer to meet in the daytime or evening and what days you are available). We hope to run both daytime and evening groups.

#### Call to Prayer

At 1pm each day during Lent we invite you to join with other members of the congregation in a shared prayerful moment. Wherever you are – at home, at work or out and about – you are invited to pause, take a second, a minute, five minutes or even more to breathe, meditate, say a prayer or read a prayer such as the ones in the CTM Lenten Reflection guide. Set an alarm or alert or calendar notification each day for 1pm, and know that many others will be sharing that moment of Lenten mindfulness and prayer with you.

Ian Ferguson

## > Justice & Mission News

---

### From the committee ...

What an excellent committee to be part of! We enjoy a meal and have the privilege of overseeing and supporting the work of committees and programs which shape the mission of our community. Here's a snapshot of what we discussed at our February meeting. See the following pages for more information.

#### Olive Way

We are looking forward to the Olive Way Review Progress Report presentation after worship on 17th March. Please do take the time to read the booklet detailing the Nine Key Recommendations which arose from the report.

During worship, also on 17th March, Peter Blair and Gus Argote will participate in a Q&A about the soon to be happening change to Peter's role - from Co-ordinator to Pastor.

A number of training opportunities are coming up including Food Handling and First Aid training in March, and later, Listening Skills on 29th April with Rev. Deac. Andy Calder.

The Olive Way Steering Committee is pleased to be welcome Kimberly Fraser (Elder) as a member.

#### BUC Arts

The BUC Arts committee has been busy with the Collage Exhibition at CTM (see the [story in Crosslight](#)), supporting preparations for the return of ArtStop and ongoing support of the Olive Arts Collective program held on Wednesdays

#### Food Co-op

We were also very pleased to learn of the significant growth in member numbers in the past 12 months - 32 with many of them being young families expressing care for the environment.

#### FUNdraising

We heard with pleasure of the anticipated numbers for the Let's Play event being hosted by Wayne & Susan Matthews on 23rd February. We agreed that proceeds from our Lenten Stalls, to be held on 24th & 31st March, would support the Uniting World Lent Event: [www.lentevent.com](http://www.lentevent.com). You are invited to go online and make a personal donation. You can also read/listen to stories of courage [www.lentevent.com/be-inspired](http://www.lentevent.com/be-inspired)

#### Sydney Rd. Street Party

The shape of what we offer will be a little different this year with the most significant change being that the Olive Way will not be opened to offer hospitality. This was due a low response rate from the congregation. We respect the fact we are a busy congregation with people have many commitments and are more than happy to respond with a much lower key presence at the party this year.

#### ARRCC

Jamie Thom and Linda Wannan recently attended a meeting of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change and presented a report to our committee. The report detailed opportunities for involvement in the work of advocating for action in this area. Please see notices in the Olive Press for opportunities to get involved. The JAM committee is very grateful for Jamie and Linda's advocacy and support their ongoing involvement. A recommendation for a banner to be installed will be made to Church Council.

Please consider joining the committee. There is a lot happening in this space and always more we could do.

Saide Cameron

# FUNdraising



## Let's Play

**Saturday 23rd February** was an absolutely perfect day for having fun. Susan & Wayne Matthew's opened their home in Greenvale to the BUC community to host a FUNdraising event for our Godly Play program. But it was about so much more than FUNdraising. In fact that was only a very small part of an afternoon and evening which saw approximately 50 people swimming, chatting, playing tennis, enjoying delicious food and dancing.

We raised \$506 which will be used to support training for Godly Play practitioners and development of resources.

Thank you to

- Wayne, Susan and Jacqueline for welcoming us into your home and providing us with the space to enjoy each other's company
- Terry Towelling and the Tank Tops (best ever covers band) for giving us a reason to dance (book them for your party)
- Alistair for his delicious Iccle Tricycle icecreams, check out the [Iccle Tricycle page](#) today.
- everyone who brought food and donated money
- and everyone who came and had fun



## FUNdraising - Getting involved?

The JAM committee and FUNdraising Team strongly supports this kind of FUNdraising. This year we will not be hosting any big events. Instead we encourage individuals and groups to consider finding new ways to both have fun and to raise money for programs and issues that matter to our congregation.

If you have an idea and/or need some support please let us know. We'll liaise with Church Council to find a suitable date so that our community's calendar doesn't get too crowded.

## Lenten Stalls

After worship on **24th and 31st March** we'll be offering FUNdraising stalls. Come along to buy preserves, delicious baked goods and more.

Helen Burnham will once again be offering the Pop-up Op Shop experience. Please start bringing in anything of value that you no longer want or need and then be prepared to buy somebody else's treasures.

We'll be supporting the [Uniting World Lent Event](#) which takes us on a journey among people who embody the spirit of courage in Timor Lest. Brochures and booklets are available at worship. You are welcome to borrow the booklet and then return it for someone else to read the following week.

Donations will be used to support

- [Clean Water and Health Education](#)
- [Church leadership and child protection](#)

Saide Cameron

## Olive Way



Olive Way has been a staple of Brunswick Uniting's ministry for nearly 12 years now. Over that time a huge number of people have passed through its doors, looking

for anything from a quick bite to eat, a healthy meal, a cup of coffee, a chat, or a place to belong. It's not unheard of for our visitors to find their way in to a Sunday service every now and then too. For many of these people Olive Way is the connection point. Whilst we at Brunswick Uniting understand Olive Way as a ministry, an arm if you like, of the church's wider outreach activities, for many people coming in it's almost as if the church is an arm of Olive Way! It's simply a matter of perspective.

While much thought has gone in recently to how we can be building a greater sense of cohesion between the church and Olive Way, there is still work to be done. We hope that our guests at Olive Way can know the invitation is ever extended from BUC, whilst at the same time we continue to create opportunities to join together in activities that are mutually beneficial to both the congregation and Olive Way guests.

## Sydney Rd. Street Party

Something old (familiar) and something new is what we'll be offering this year. *(And by the time many of you read this it will have already happened.)*

As noted in the committee report we have shifted our focus this year away from the intense busyness of Olive Way Hospitality, respecting that this takes an enormous amount of time, effort and energy in the set up, preparation, serving and clean up. Instead there will be a much stronger emphasis on our growing Arts community.



The **Rainbow** will be on the street again. This year we will be handing out the **Respect postcards** made by Olive Arts collective artists and inviting passersby to

Later this month the Olive Way Steering Committee will create an opportunity for the congregation to explore what Olive Way looks, feels (and even tastes) like. We will be hosting a little taster experience on the 17th where members of the BUC community who wouldn't normally have the time or availability to come to Olive Way can sit down in the space and to ask questions of myself and the Steering committee in a safe environment. This will happen after the service in the Olive Way space.

This time will also look at the broader vision of Olive Way, our theology of ministry, and where we are headed in the future. This was highlighted by the review conducted last year by Tim Budge. Particularly important is the idea of Olive Way further developing as a hub for a range of activities, with hospitality and welcome as our core ministry at the heart of everything we do. We hope to give a picture of how this will look in a practical, theological, and pastoral sense.

So please come and join us on the morning of the 17th. We will commence after the service. Pick up a copy of the Nine Key Recommendations booklet or have a look at it online.



Peter Blair

respond to prompts about who they respect, what it means to show respect etc. and post their thoughts on the rainbow.

The **worship space** will be open and hosted for visitors to explore. Works from the Olive Arts Collective artists will be displayed for visitors to enjoy.

The **Collage Exhibition** recently hosted by the Centre for Theology and Ministry will be displayed in the **Youth Hall** along with artist portfolios. Light refreshments with jugs of cool water will be on offer. There will also be a makers table for people to make their own Respect postcard.

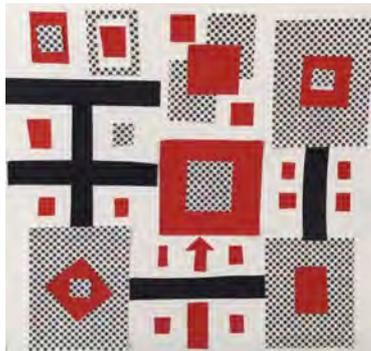
And finally we are absolutely thrilled that **Love Makes A Way** will be singing on the hour and telling stories about refugees. Please come along and support them.

Thank you to everyone who has offered their time on the roster. If you haven't been able to do this we encourage you to take the time and be a visitor and enjoy our spaces in a different way.

Saide Cameron

## BUC Arts

It's been another busy month for our arts community. The committee will continue our work on preparing role descriptions for participants in our various programs and activities and particularly with respect to the Olive Arts Collective. Our growth has been spectacularly organic and we believe that structure and support will enable this growth to thrive. Here's an overview ...



### Collage at CTM

Ann Soo and Jane Allardice packed up the collage works and transported them to the Centre for Theology and Ministry. It was amazing to see our works on display in such a beautiful space. Christina Rowntree was asked to do a story for Crosslight, the Synod monthly magazine and invited Ann Soo to join her. Ann then invited Priscilla Manthey, our collage teacher. Read the [story here](#) or pick up a copy on Sunday.



### Olive Pesto

Olive Pesto has moved to the second Saturday of the month, meeting in the Youth Hall from 10am-12pm. In March the group will be making items out of materials many and varied : NAME TAGS for ourselves and others. Guided by the highly creative pair CATHERINE COWEN and JOY BARRETT, you'll leave with Something Useful Yet Different as well as make a name tag for another person in a Good Cause. Makers of all crafting availability are welcome. See the monthly newsletter for lots more.



### ArtStop Dialogue

The dialogue with ArtStop convenor Rachel Edward and lead artists George Akl and Ellie Purseglove was open, honest and richly rewarding. We discussed the history of ArtStop in our space, the uniqueness of the program, our values, the expected outcomes of Arts Access Victoria in relation to ArtStop, the role of volunteers in the program, possibilities for collaboration and working together.

ArtStop will be offering two funded programs this year with the first block of 14 weeks having begun on 27th February and the second one commencing in July. Concluding our meeting we agreed to explore the possibility of a trial wherein Olive Arts leaders would be present as volunteers in the ArtStop program as a way of providing a familiar welcome to the Olive Arts collective artists. We hope that this will ensure continuity for all artists throughout the funded program.

Another conversation has been scheduled with Rachel for 1st March to explore other issues raised in the dialogue.

### Palm Sunday Rally

Every year we gather under our BUC and Welcome Banners to participate in the Palm Sunday Rally on **14th April**. We gather on the corner of LaTrobe & Swanston Streets. Join the Justice & Mission Committee and other members of the congregation as we 'Walk for Justice for Refugees'.



### Olive Arts Collective

The OAC community continues to thrive, welcoming people from many walks of life into the bright and airy Youth Hall on Wednesdays.

Responding to the outcome of the dialogue with ArtStop Ann Soo spoke with the artists about the trial. A Q&A document was prepared and distributed to provide clarity about the purpose for the trial and the support that would be offered. The views of the artists were sought and documented.

The JAM committee will seek continual feedback from the artists with the support of Ann and Leanne Salau. A review of the first four weeks will be high on the agenda for the March meeting. Feedback from the first week has been very promising.

We hope you enjoy the artwork in the Nine Key Recommendations document - the majority of it was sources from the Olive Way Respect project.

Saide Cameron



## > 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.

Next ride - **to be advised**

For more details contact Graham Lawrence, 0408 617 416.

### 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 Helen (0423 009 813).

### Mulling

March Mulling is not far away and, in a delicious coincidence, will occur on Shrove Tuesday!

We will meet at Amelia's house on 5th March from 7-9pm and do the first activity and some of the reflections in the Lenten Study that BUC will be following this year.

Pancakes provided, please bring some toppings.

For details, contact Amelia 0428143800.

### The Olive Way

Our congregation's outreach program is open on **Tuesday to Thursday** from 10 am - 1:30 pm.

- Writing Workshop - Tuesday
- Community Kitchen & Art programs - Wednesday
- SROC (drama group) - 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 27th March 2019**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

**Nakano Thrift Shop** by Hiromi Kawakami will be the focus of our discussion in March.

In the Nakano Thrift Shop, the objects hold many secrets-- as do the staff and the customers. When Hitomi takes a job on the cash register of a neighbourhood thrift store, she finds herself drawn into a very idiosyncratic community.

This novel is a funny, heart-warming story about love, life, and human relationships that features a delightfully offbeat cast of characters.



Everyone welcome. Speak to Faye or Christine 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. The monthly activity is advertised in the Olive Press. Contact Helen Rowe for further information. Mobile 0423 009 813 or email [helen.rowe@rocketmail.com](mailto:helen.rowe@rocketmail.com)

### Olive Pesto

Olive Pesto is held on the second Saturday of the month, 10am-noon in the Youth Hall. Bring a project, share a project. All are welcome. Contact Linda Wannan, 0405 470 568.

### Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Next Distribution Day – **NOTE THE DATE:**

**Saturday 16th March**, 10 am - 12 noon.

Reduce plastic packaging going to landfill. We buy in bulk (60 dry food products and cleaning liquids) and you bring your re-usable containers to fill with the quantity you want. Reasonable prices. Members share in the running of the Co-op each month and pay a small annual Membership fee. Further information from Helen Rowe 0423 009 813. New members welcome!

## > Reports

### Church Council

Church Council has had a great start to the year, welcoming new members and leading the congregation in some visioning work for the coming year. Over the last month Church Council has been occupied with the following:

#### Leaders Retreat

- Over the weekend of the 2nd to the 3rd, Church Council welcomed a diverse group of self-selected leaders throughout the congregation to join us in the first part of our annual retreat. We spent this time reflecting on and celebrating what had been achieved over the previous year, and envisioning what 'fruits' we hoped to yield for our church life and mission in 2019.
- We collected these ideas together, and they are available to be viewed if you are interested.
- On the second day of this weekend, Church Council met for its own retreat. We spent some time brainstorming our own goals for 2019. We have invited the other committees to begin the process of reviewing their own goals.

#### The Merri Project

- During this time we also began a discussion of the 'Merri Project'. Late in 2018, Church Council accepted a recommendation from Finance to consider repurposing our Merri St property, located on the boundary of the main church property. This asset has been used as a rental property for some years, but the poor condition of the site has prevented it from realising its worth. A task group has been formed to consider what other uses the property might be put to. We look forward to hearing what they come up with.

#### Ministry and Leadership

- After a long process of seeking out a candidate to fill our Children and Families Ministry role, we are excited by the decision of our Congregational Meeting to accept the nomination of Dave Hall to this position. Dave comes from a long background of working with young people, including through leadership in NCYC. Dave was highly recommended, and we are looking forward to welcoming him into a ministry team.

- This appointment will mean bringing to a close the work of Janet, Janet and Valentina in their interim. We look forward to celebrating with the congregation the amazing work that each of them as done over the last few months.
- We are cognizant that the appointment of Dave will result in an all-white, male ministry team for the first time in a long time. In light of this, Church Council intends to adopt as a major goal the intentional promotion of leadership of diverse people in the congregation through other roles and positions.

#### Finance

- In addition to the formulation of goals, Church Council approved a budget to be presented for adoption to the Annual General Meeting. We believe that this budget is in line with our general policy of maintaining fiscal balance over the medium term.
- As part of this budget, we expect to approve some significant property and maintenance expenditure. This will be funded from the healthy growth of our general fund over the last year.
- Our Treasurer continues to remind us that the committees are persistently underspending their budgets, and that there are more funds available for committees to pursue professional development. The Treasurer is begging you to spend!

#### Other

- We approved basic first aid training for Olive Arts Collective leaders and lead artists.
- Approved list of endorsed Safe Church activities for 2019 and updated Safe Church policy.
- Organised a response to the Disability Action Plan Survey.
- Formed a task group to review how we as a congregation report to Church Council and through communications.

Daniel Broadstock

### Finance Committee

***Need to contact someone, or find who is on what committee, but your hard-copy Olive Pages is out-of-date?***

***Like to see the Finance AGM Materials?***

***Like to set up a regular Direct Credit to BUC's ANZ account?***

***Need some info like our Insurance Cover?***

Answers to all these: Get onto the Member pages of the BUC website for all this and So Much More

#### ***How?***

First : Click on <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/> choose Member Area and get yourself registered.

Getting the OK to your registration application is quick enough, but not, thankfully, automatic. (Thank you, Saide),

Once registered:

**Need to contact someone but your hard-copy Olive Pages is lost or out-of-date?**

Click on <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/> then Member Area, Publications, Olive Pages and POW! A pdf file of the most up-to-date Directory appears on your screen

**Like to see the Finance AGM Materials?**

Click on <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/member-area/council-committees/finance/>

Go half way down the page, click on the reports you want, and POW! Full-colour graphs and numbers appear.

**Like to set up a regular Direct Credit to BUC's ANZ account?**

Yes, click on <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/member-area/council-committees/finance/>

Go down to Giving Options, click on GIVING METHODS and the PDF that appears on your screen will provide the bank account details.

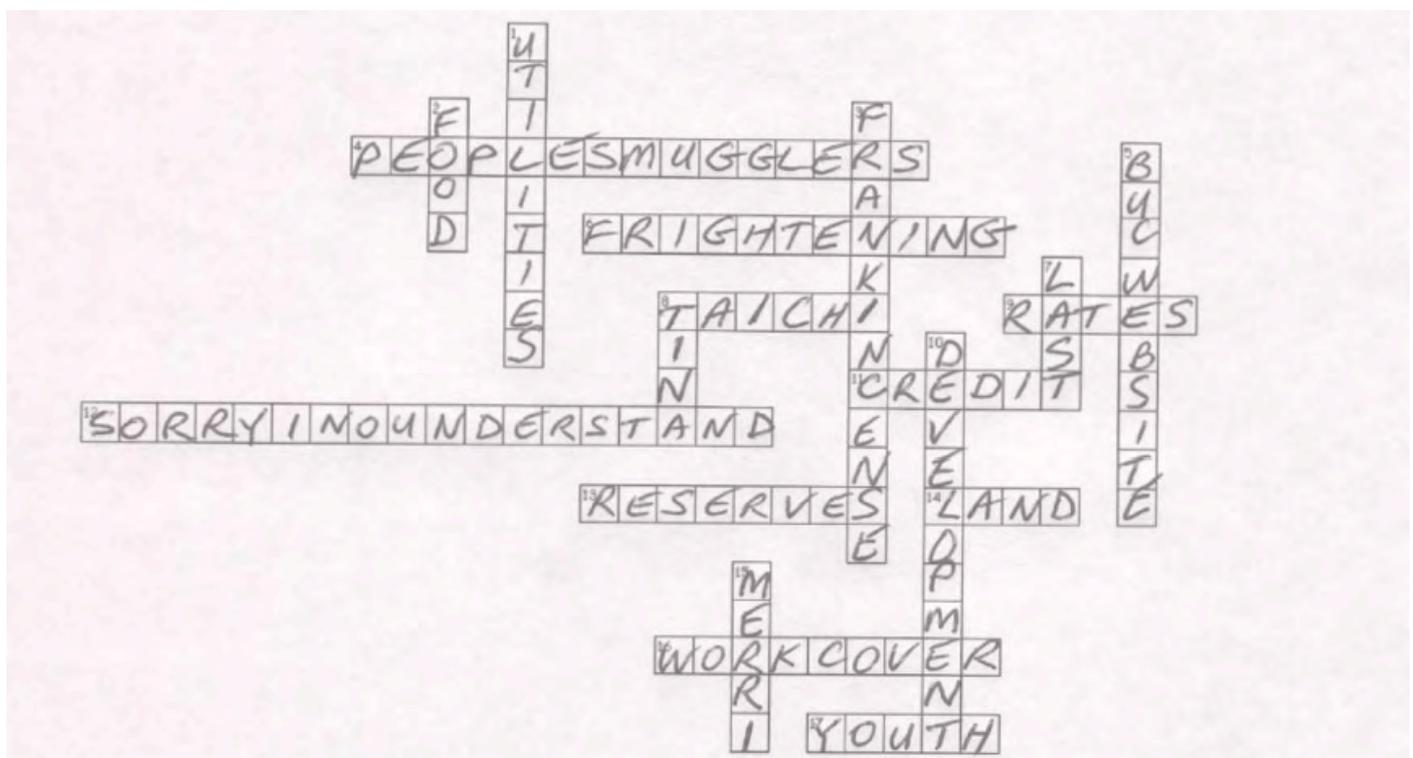
**Still can't find what you want, or have ideas for improvement?**

Contact "Padawan Legend" NAOMI DAVID on [nsdavid81@yahoo.com](mailto:nsdavid81@yahoo.com)

Have a wonderful thoughtful Lenten season

**Finance Committee**, TimB, NaomiD, LindaW, MalR

## Answers to the February Brunswick UC Finance Crossword



### Across

4. "Maybe the gifts from the Three Wise Ones were used to pay the ... when they needed refuge in Egypt" Anon (6-9)
6. "Thunder and lightning, very, very ....." (11)
8. A regular use of our hall mid-week (3-3)
9. The municipal fees we pay Moreland City Council (5)
11. "For every debit there's a ...." (6)
12. Name of winning piece in 2018 Blake Religious and Spiritual Art Award (5,1,2, 10)
13. Value of the difference between church assets and debts; similar concept to business equity (8)
14. The State tax we pay for owning land not used for religious purposes (4)
16. Insurance paid to cover staff and volunteer accidents (4,5)
17. The light, bright, sunny Hall at 2 Merri Street (5)

### Down

1. Gas, electricity water are ..... (9)
2. The BUC .... Co-op is going well (4)
3. "Whatever happened to the gold, ... and myrrh that the Three Wise Ones gave to the baby Jesus?" (12)
5. Place to go to get BUC Finance info such as Insurance Certificate, and forms (1.1.1.7)
7. The Sunday in February when we have the BUC AGM, with full colour Finance info, and Budget 2019 (4)
8. First name of 2018 Blake Art Award winner (4)
10. Professional ..... is training and extending staff and volunteers for the future (11)
15. Street perpendicular to (off) Sydney Road (5)

## Pastoral Care Committee

One balmy evening in late February all the pastoral care teams got together for a meal at Sheila's home followed by a time of shared learning. This time was spent discussing the themes of Respect and Listening led by Ian. The themes were discussed as separate topics and also how they could be related to each other. Always a valuable time when we get together as a whole!.

For you in the congregation, 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 and Michael Rigby.

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

**Jane Allardice**

## Property Committee

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

- Additional adjustments made to the ASWC west side door lock etc to make it usable.
- Replacement recycle bins have been painted with the church details.
- Church gutters and down pipes have been inspected and cleaned
- Dishwasher in the Green student house repaired.
- Oiled the 5 bench seats out the front of the church.
- Student House lighting rearrangements in a bedroom, two new lights and relocated light switch.
- Weeds on the roof of 4 Merri St attended to.
- Directed Finance committee to cancel the gas service to 2 Merri St (youth hall).
- Held a working bee, a lot of odd jobs undertaken and gardening.

*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. Brunswick Council responding to permit.
- Flexible pump segments to be replaced in the peristaltic pump.
- 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.
- One Japanese maple tree remains in the walkway pots. Decision to be made as to its removal.
- 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.
- Undertake the work on the hall's operable wall, skirts and attach panel segment. Ensure hatch is rehinged.
- Hatch above the east doorway between the church and the Olive Way to be finalised.
- Large toilet paper dispensers to be installed in each toilet cubicle
- Gas heater on the south and east walls of the hall aren't operating, to be repaired.
- A bird grill will need to be reinstalled on the hall steeple.
- Student House painting quotes being assessed.
- Student House maintenance items to be attended to; door handles, towel rails, toilet roll holders.
- Ensure that slate tile is reinstated on the church roof.
- Replace the faulty water tank pump in the south water tank.

**Ray Cameron**

## Worship Committee

After our Lent Worship planning meeting (see page 2) we welcomed Jenne Perlstein to our committee. We followed our usual practice of reflecting on worship services held since our previous meeting and in this case also included much of January.

We appreciated the preaching of Sunny Chen (a regular preacher) and Peter Blair (his first time preaching).

We acknowledged the importance of our Sunday Morning Program blessing and the potential for this ceremony to be examined and revisioned for next time. We also talked about the challenge of providing activities in the Gathering Space on Communion Sundays that were suitable for all ages and gave consideration to how we invite our young people into this space.

We've appreciated the **Children's Times** which have included a curly questions verse, a visit from Simon Peter with a very cool net of fish, the quite amazing sight of Janet Watson Kruse standing on her head to introduce the concept of God's upside down world and Amelia and Ian demonstrating the Golden Rule.

We are exploring ways to ensure that our **Marriage Register** is reflective of our position on marriage.

We wrote a thank you card to **Julia Potter** who has moved to Sydney to study for two years. We acknowledged her generous offering of her musical gifts as one of our weekly co-ordinators and leadership of the pageant musicians in recent years.

We discussed the **Respect postcards** developed by Olive Way artists and considered the two-way nature of the relationship between our congregation and the Olive Way community.

We explored dates for the **Worship Workshop** series we hope to offer with the Discipleship & Education committee in

**3/2 Epiphany 4 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30** The focus with the children was the blessing of the Sunday Morning program for the year (see CYA News, 10). Before that Janet commented on how much Ian likes questions and Ian affirmed that SMP is great place for asking questions. Janet made up a verse about questions (with actions of course). 'At BUC we just love questions. Questions to ask. Questions to wonder. Questions from us. Questions that call to us. Questions for what is inside and questions for what is beyond. Mind questions, heart questions and curly question. At BUC we really love questions.' Ian encouraged the children to ask lots of questions this year. Ian and Janet invited the leaders for each of the groups and come and stand with the children for the blessing and commissioning.

Janet concluded this time by acknowledging Faye Findlay's ministry of Godly Play within the Sunday Morning Program. She reminded us that we the children had made Faye a thanks you gift when she announced her retirement from this ministry last year and gave Faye two books 'When I talk to you' by Leunig and 'In the Shelter: finding a home in the world' by Pdraig O Tuama., honouring her great love of reading. Faye offered her thanks for these books in the Olive Press.

In his sermon '[Spiritual but not religious](#)' Ian engaged is us in a reflection on what it might mean to be a spiritual person. He spoke about Paul's letter to the Corinthians, about chapter 13 which he described as a 'sublime passage'. He explored the characteristics of a spiritual person and delved deeper into chapter 13 to help us understand what Paul was trying to explain to the Corinthian community commenting 'Spirituality in all its forms needs to be exercised as an expression of love.' And then he invited us to consider what love is and reminded us again of Paul's writing 'love rejoices in the truth, bears, believes, hopes and endures all things'. Ian concluded reminding us that 'Love is the greatest spiritual gift' commenting on how love underpins and surpasses all other spiritual gifts and finally 'We will come to an end. The world will come to an end and all that we have now and all that we do, all that we know will be gone. But not love. So it is in this sense that I aspire to be spiritual not religious. I aspire to love. What about you?'

the second half of the the year. We hope that this workshop will serve the dual purpose of offering training and support to current worship and prayer leaders and also demystifying the work of worship for anyone else who is interested. Stay tuned for details to come.

We noted the gaps in the current **roster** and strategies for encouraging people to join the rosters for sound system, morning tea and minding the Olive Way Door in particular. We are delighted to have three people (Nicole Lowe, Clare Keogh and Melvin Tan) join the music roster and Tonia Ly joining the Prayers of the People roster. We are always delighted to have people joining the roster any time. Please contact Saide Cameron, 0407 096 743 if you are interested.

We have our first **Welcoming Ceremony** coming up at the end of March and will be reflecting on the questions that we ask in preparation for the ceremony.



Later he invited the children to create a boat with their cushions. Simon Peter joined them to tell them about what happened in the boat with Jesus telling him to go out into deep water and his amazement at catching all the fish. And then he told us about Jesus' invitation to follow him.

**10/2 Epiphany 5 Luke 5:1-11, Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 69:1-3, Isaiah 51:9-11** Ian's prayers of adoration and confession drew our attention to the symbols of our faith.



Ian wondered why Peter followed Jesus and reminded us that we are also called to follow Jesus.

To begin his sermon [‘Into the Abyss’](#) Ian shared his memory first snorkelling experience on the Great Barrier Reef of his delight and of his terror when he encountered deep water. Inviting us to get metaphorical he wondered why Jesus would want to call us out into such a place of terror. He reminded us of Peter’s experience when told by Jesus to throw out his net, of the terror he felt in the face of *‘divine creative abundance’*. Speaking his own encounter with the sea turtles out in the deep water of the Great Barrier Reef Ian said *‘You see blessings can come from the abyss’*. He went on to show us an image of the underwater statue of ‘Christ of the Abyss’ and the way in which it reminded him of Genesis 1. He shared a paragraph from a sci-fi fantasy novel ‘The Scar’ in which the character learns to embrace the deep.

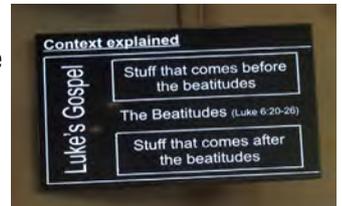


Concluding Ian wondered *‘Could the deep, the abyss be a place of life for you? Our natural habitat by faith with humility’* and shared his experience of snorkelling in Fiji which elicited the feeling of being small and powerless in the face of environmental damage. He reminded us of Jesus’ invitation to come into the deep water ... *‘If you dare to follow me, I will take you there and together we will love the world into new life from the abyss.’*

**17/2 Epiphany 6 Luke 6:17-26, Jeremiah 17:5-10** Ian invited the children to join him out the front as usual only to discover that Janet was standing on her head in an attempt to see the world upside down. She went on to explain that our world is often upside down and used the production of chocolate as an example to help us understand how unfair the whole process is. We went to sing ‘Right Side Up’ to remind us what God is doing in our lives and in our world.



Ian’s sermon [‘Blessed are you ...?’](#) was an opportunity reflect on the Beatitudes beginning with the equation *‘Beatitudes equals Topos of Transposition’*. Ian spoke of the context for Jesus’ offering the Beatitudes, of his conflict with the Pharisees and Scribes which Ian said was, in summary, *‘about who is an insider and who is an outsider as defined by social and religious conventions ...’*. Ian spoke about the ways in which people continued to be marginalized in our day, commenting that Jesus’ redefinition of his world sounds as stark and as strange as subversively radical as it did back then.



Focussing then specifically on the opening words *‘How blessed are you who are poor’* he compared Luke’s and Matthew’s versions and then went on to wonder *Who is the ‘you’ here – you who are poor?* He spoke of Joel Green’s work on this and the much broader understanding offered there of what it means to be poor. And finally he explained Topos of Transposition, which he said is *the theme of reversal which runs through Luke’s Gospel from beginning to end and is spelt out so starkly in his Beatitudes*. And then he spelled out for us that the ‘you’ in this story is the disciples and wondered about the implications of this for us as Jesus’ followers now. He concluded *‘How do you identify with the blessed poor? ... How do we identify as a church in this way? How might we support one another in embodying the divine reign in this place? Blessed are you. Amen’*

**24/2 Epiphany 7 Luke 6:27-38, Psalm 37:1-11** Ian and Amelia demonstrated how The Golden Rule - ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you works’. He explained that together we support each other to be the church - each of us is holding



the other but nobody is in control. Members of the Student Households (Samantha, Elizabeth, Charlotte and Quilan) participated in leading the prayers. See CYYA News, p10, for the SHP Blessing story.

Beginning his sermon [‘How to love your enemies’](#) Ian introduced us Pakistani Muslim Australian, Osman Faruqi and shared the story of his conflict with his enemy Australian Jewish Australian, Avi Yemeni. He used this story to help us explore the Golden Rule. Ian explored the universality of the Golden Rule, of its place in Jesus’ radical new teachings, of what it says about how we are to imitate God’s way of loving. Ian shared the horrific details of the conflict between Faruqi and Yemini and the impact this had on Faruqi’s life. He reflected on the characteristics of God and delved deep into mercy, offering a Greek word study to help us make sense of this quality. He concluded by sharing Ozmen Faruqi’s decision to request an interview with Avi Yemeni, of the way he sees this as *‘an act of justice seeking love’* and wondered *if in listening ‘did we perhaps hear the whisper of divine love, of compassionate mercy in their exchange? God’s radical love that is upsetting our world visions. What did you hear and how will you live?’*



He concluded praying *‘Merciful God hold us with the eternal grace of your compassionate love and strengthen us. Strengthen our souls. Give us strength of heart to love others, to do as we would be done by, to show your mercy, to live as you live. In Jesus name. Amen’*

Saide Cameron

## > Happy Birthday

Jill Allan, Adrian Brown, Nicholas Brown, Matthew Cameron, Ray Cameron, Gus Coverdale, Zac Coverdale, Meredith Dobson, Alex Ferguson, Emily Hardman, Andrew Hornby, Anika Jolley, Daniel Jolley, Helen Kronberger, Hamish Masterton, Julia Potter, Richard Potter, Annie Quail, Ruth Tall, John Venning, Sam Winkler

Tell us your birthday so that you can be included in the monthly birthday greetings.

Email [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com)



## > Preaching Plan

March 3	Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion, Transfiguration</b>	March 24	Ian Ferguson <b>Lent 3</b>	April 18	Ian Ferguson, <b>7:30 pm</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b>
March 6	Ian Ferguson, 7:30pm <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	March 31	Ian Ferguson <b>Lent 4</b>	April 19	Ian Ferguson, <b>9:30 am</b> <b>Good Friday</b>
March 10	Ian Ferguson <b>Lent 1</b>	April 7	Geoff Thompson <b>Holy Communion, Lent 5</b>	April 21	Ian Ferguson, <b>7:00 am</b> <b>Easter Day Dawn Service</b>
March 17	Ian Ferguson <b>Lent 2</b>	April 14	Ian Ferguson <b>Palm Sunday</b>	April 14	Ian Ferguson <b>Easter Day Holy Communion</b>

## > Lectionary

### After Epiphany

A period in which the Church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. The Baptism of the Lord is the first Sunday of this period. On the last Sunday, we hear the readings of the Transfiguration of the Lord. The length of this period varies depending on the date of Easter.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
3/3	Transfiguration	Ex 34:29-35	Ps 99	2 Cor 3:12-4:2	Lk 9:28-36 (37-43a)	W

### Lent

A season of preparation and discipline that begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the Church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
6/3	Ash Wednesday	Jl 2:1-2, 12-17 or Is 58:1-12	Ps 51:1-7	2 Cor 5:20b-6:10	Mt 6:1-6, 16-21	P
10/3	Lent 1	Dt 26:1-11	Ps 91:1-2, 9-16	Rom 10:8b-13	Lk 4:1-13	P
17/3	Lent 2	Gn 15:1-12, 17-18	Ps 27	Phil 3:17-4:1	Lk 13:31-35	P
24/3	Lent 3	Is 55:1-9	Ps 63:1-8	1 Cor 10:1-13	Lk 13:1-9	P
31/3	Lent 4	Jos 5:9-12	Ps 32	2 Cor 5:16-2	Lk 15:1-3, 11b-32	P
7/4	Lent 5	Is 43:16-21	Ps 126	Phil 3:4b-14	Jn 12:1-8	P
14/4	Palm Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 118:1-2, 19-29	Phil 2:5-11	Lk 19:8-40 or Jn 12:12-16	P
18/4	Maundy Thursday	Ex 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35	P
19/4	Good Friday	Is 52:13-53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9	Jn 18:1-19:42	B

### Easter

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
21/4	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Is 65:17-25	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Cor 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	Jn 20:1-18 or Lk 24:1-12	W
28/4	Easter 2	Acts 5:27-32	Ps 118:14-29 or Ps 150	Rev 1:4-8	Jn 20:19-31	W

## March Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 3</b> 9:30 – Ian Ferguson <b>HC</b> 12:00 – Sydney Rd. Street Party  4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p	4	5	6	7	8	9
		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner  7:30 – Ash Wednesday	10:00 – Olive Way		10:00 – Olive Pesto
<b>Lent 1 10</b> 9:30 – Ian Ferguson   5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	11	12	13	14	15	16
		10:00 – Olive Way  7:30 – Church Council	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way	7:30 – YUCY	10:00 – Food Co-op  4:00 – Carlynne’s Ordination
<b>Lent 2 17</b> 9:30 – Ian Ferguson (Elder’s Commissioning) 11:00 –OW Presentation  5:00 – Indonesian W’p	18	19	20	21	22	23
		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner  7:00 – Holy Week Planning 8:00 – Worship C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way  6:45 – JAM C’tee		
<b>Lent 3 24</b> 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 10:45 – Lenten Stall  5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	25	26	27	28	29	30
		10:00 – Olive Way  7:30 – Property C’tee	10:00 - Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way	6:30 – MMM Dinners 7:30 – YUCY/	6:30 – MMM Dinners
<b>Lent 4 31</b> 9:30 –Ian Ferguson (Welcoming Ceremony) 10:45 – Lenten Stall 12:30 – MMM Lunches  5:00 – Indonesian W’p	April 1	2	3	4	5	6
		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way		2:30 – Coffee