

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

July 2019 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

## > Meditation

### Why should we care about refugees?

Should is a heavy word that we often use to guilt ourselves and others with. It implies obligation or duty. Is there a moral imperative, beyond common decency and compassion, that those of us who follow Jesus must obey in regard to caring for refugees?

Here are a couple of relevant bible verses, because if we can find one or two scriptures to support the case for caring about refugees then that should settle it, right? – that seems to be the way much Xn moral discourse takes place. Deuteronomy 27:19 “Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien (the Hebrew word GER also means foreigner, stranger, sojourner, refugee) . . . of justice.” All the people shall say, “Amen!” And Leviticus 19:33 When a refugee (GER) resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the refugee. The refugee who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the refugee as yourself. How many bible verses make for a SHOULD? I’ve got 20 others in the same vein that there isn’t space for here. But to summarise, they say we should love refugees as ourselves or be cursed.

That’s all very well, but as menstruating women and long-haired men (among others) will tell you, these days we happily ignore plenty of the commands in the bible, why should we take notice of these particular ones? One answer is in Deuteronomy 10:19, God loves the refugees, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the refugee, for you were refugees in the land of Egypt. In other words, the bible is written about a refugee lover, God, for refugees, the people of Israel. God loves refugees so we should too. The issue is not just about individual verses and commands, because the refugee experience is fundamental to the bible. It is full of refugee characters, among them: Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Hagar and Ishmael, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Naomi, Ruth, David, Elijah and all of Israel. And of course, Jesus is a refugee.

Matthew tells the story in chapter 2 of his gospel: then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and fled to Egypt. Matthew deliberately tells this story to echo the story of Moses and the people of Israel – as they were God’s beloved refugees in Egypt, so now also is this child. Furthermore, in the parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:34ff) Jesus claims refugee status for himself. He says to the blessed ones, “I was a stranger, a refugee, and you welcomed me” and he says to the cursed ones, “I was a stranger, a refugee, and you did not welcome me. For just as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.”

Why should we care about refugees? Above all, because Jesus is the refugee. And we are called to be where he is.

Here is a select list of bible verses referring to GERIM, Refugees (read the passages here <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/why-should-we-care-about-refugees/>): Exodus 12:49, Exodus 22:21, Exodus 23:9, Leviticus 19:33, Leviticus 23:22, Numbers 9:15, Deuteronomy 10:18-19, Deuteronomy 24:14, Deuteronomy 24:17-18, Deuteronomy 24:19-22, Deuteronomy 27:19, Psalm 94:3-7, Psalm 146:5-9, Jeremiah 7:5-7, Ezekiel 22:6-7, 12, Malachi 3:5, Zechariah 7:9-11, Matthew 25:34-40, Hebrews 13:1-3.

And this article lists many of the refugee characters in the bible including the passages that describe their displacement: <http://iafr.org/youversion/downloads/day2-refugees-in-the-bible.pdf>

Ian Ferguson



## > Worship Calendar

### July

#### Synod

The meeting of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania occurs approximately every 18 months and consists of around 300 members appointed by presbyteries and reporting bodies. It meets over five days to worship, enjoy fellowship, receive reports and make decisions regarding the general oversight, direction and administration of the Church's worship, witness and service.



The 2019 Synod meeting will be held from **5-9 July** at Box Hill Town Hall. Opening worship of the Synod meeting will commence 7.30pm, 5th July, at St Michael's Uniting Church, corner Russell and Collins St. Thereafter, supper will be enjoyed at The Scot's Church. Visit the [Synod website](#) for more information.

Ian will be attending Synod. The worship committee will lead worship on **7th July** and Janet Reus-Smit will preside over Holy Communion.

#### Worship Workshops

**What, why, how, where, when?** Do you ever ask these questions about worship? Do you wonder where the shape of our liturgy comes from or how our liturgists and prayers leaders write the prayers offered each week? Are you interested in exploring the theology and traditions of worship?

If your answer is yes to even one of these questions then please feel very welcome to join the worship committee the next two workshops in July.

**Two more dates to go - 11th and 18th July!!!**



We're still working on the exact content but they will follow on from our conversation with Professor of Liturgy Stephen Burns during the first workshop on 27th June (see Worship News, p11). The workshops will be practical and contribute to the worship services for the following two Sundays.

#### Baptism

During worship on **21st July** we will celebrate the baptism of Joshua Whitty, son of Steph Gesling & Matt Whitty.

#### Merri Project

On **28th July** our worship service will be shaped to help us prepare to reflect on our mission priorities during the consultation workshop to be held following morning tea. See Community News, p8 and Council Report, p16.

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# > Children & Families, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

## News from the Pastor ...

Well, there's plenty of variety in this role! Here's a quick summary of what has happened, and coming events, starting with the youngest...

### Olive Pips (Brunswick UC Playgroup)

Nagma and I have emailed a quick survey to parents of pre-schoolers, asking about your preferred time, place and frequency of Olive Pips. If you didn't receive this, or would like to, please contact me (see below).



A pastoral joy and ministry highlight was being involved in the baptism of Tonia's son, Jacob.

### Sunday Morning Program (SMP)

Lego Masters on Pentecost Sunday, a train set painted with the symbols of Christian faith for Jacob Ly, an exploration of Jesus as a refugee and a quieter contemplative service were all some of the recent highlights in SMP. There will still be good things happening over the July holidays before a big Term 3, with a couple of exciting projects and ideas starting to grow. Thanks to those people who have volunteered to be on the roster. The Term 3 roster will come around soon. Contact Dave if you are interested in volunteering.



### Youth Group

#### every second Friday night

Bounce, Egg Drop, Newspaper Hockey, Werewolves and an Escape Room have all featured in YUCY this past month. About ten young people regularly attend, mainly Year 7 to 10's. In Term 4, we will invite current Year 6's to come along. The Term 3 plan is already looking action packed.

### Student House

A big focus in these early days has been spending time with the Student House residents: Quilan, Elizabeth, Samantha, Cecily, Jason, Charlotte and Bethany. We are pleased to announce a new student, Jean Saker, will be moving in, later in July.

Jean has lived up near Cairns since she was ten (after the family emigrated from Papua New Guinea). She is moving to Melbourne to complete her Law articles, and has had a long involvement with Mareeba Uniting Church. We have a couple of vacant rooms, so if you know any tertiary students who have moved (or are moving) to Melbourne, and are looking for more of a community/fait-focus, please let us know. There's more details on our website.

### Young Adults

The Mulling Group is a great get together for younger adults, coordinated by Amelia W, Daniel B and Kimberley F. Contact them directly for details, or via Dave below.

### The Good Summit

On **Thursday 18 July**, Julian is hosting The Good Summit at the CTM in Parkville, with a huge range of guest speakers including Rev Tim Costello and Rev Jay Robinson. It's only \$40, and should be an inspiring day. Check: <https://australia.thegoodsummit.com/>

### Julian Hamilton visit

Our favourite Irish Methodist Chaplain at Trinity College Dublin, [Julian \(Jools\) Hamilton](#) is guest preacher at Brunswick Uniting on **Sunday 4 August**. We are hoping to have a lunch after church for young adults (18 to 35), where Jools can share a bit more of his wisdom about faith, life, the Bible and all things good.



### Samuel Wells visit

Rev Dr Samuel Wells is also visiting Brunswick UC on **Thursday 8 August** and the CTM on **Saturday 10 August**. Sam is a preacher, writer and theologian. He spent seven years as Dean of Duke University Chapel in the US. He is currently priest at St Martin-in-the Fields, London, and visiting Professor of Christian Ethics at King's College London. He has published 30 books exploring Christian ethics, social mission, liturgy and faith, and four collections of sermons. Check: <https://ctm.uca.edu.au/ctm/events/northey-lecture-citizens-of-heaven-identity-inclusion-and-the-church/>



Grace and peace  
**Dave Hall**, Pastor: Children, Youth and Young Adults  
0417 310 128, [davebhall1373@gmail.com](mailto:davebhall1373@gmail.com)

## Release from Ministry – Janet Hogan and Valentina Satvedi-Leydon



During worship on **2nd June** we celebrated the ministries of Valentina Satvedi-Leydon and Janet Hogan as our Interim Student House and Youth Support workers.

Ian began by acknowledging that they will be staying on with us but changing their relationship with the congregation as they hand their roles on to Dave Hall, Children & Families, Youth & Young Adult Pastor.

To assist with this celebration Ian and Amelia invited the children to practice a circle dance and the congregation to join in with the hand & arm gestures to the song '*Christ before me, Christ*

**Valentina** – It's not farewell I know, it's a change and transition. I'm going to begin with giving thanks to the Spirit who led Tom & I here to this place, to this faith community which is how I found myself in this position after prayerful consideration. I'm thankful for the Spirit and the leading of the Spirit. I am very thankful for the Student House Committee members, past and present who have walked with me on this journey and supported me. Ian is also part of that he wore multiple hats. So I'm thankful for that. I'm thankful for the opportunity to engage with the program and the students. It has been a great experience and opportunity to use my skills but I've also learned a few things and been challenged by a few things. I've also had the opportunity to push back so for all those things I give thanks. I'm thankful for the Ministry Team – Peter Blair, Janet Watson Kruse, Ian, Janet Hogan where we have those opportunities and I missed those opportunities having transitioned to Australia. So it was good to be there where I could connect to people who I could relate with and find support and wisdom at times. Most in particular I would like to thank you, the congregation. Some of you have taken the opportunity to get to know me and open your hearts to me and my journey with you will continue in a different role and I give thanks for that and wish Dave well in on his journey with this community and all aspects of it.

*behind me, Christ above me and below, Christ beside me, Christ within me, Christ around me where'er I go.*

Ian invited Valentina and Janet to join him out the front together with members of the Student House program and committee and the YUCY (youth) group and Children, Youth & Young Adults committee. We shared the beautiful liturgy below after which Valentina and Janet reflected on their ministries.

There are diverse gifts  
**but it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

There are different ways of serving God:  
**But it is the same Lord who is served.**  
God works through people in different ways:  
**But it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.**

Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit:  
**And there is no gift without its corresponding service.**

There is one ministry of Christ  
**and in this ministry we all share.**

Together we are the body of Christ:  
**And individually members of it.**

**Janet** – I think God led me here and I hadn't been in the church for about ten years and God welcomed me in on Palm Sunday with a donkey and by the 31st May I was dead-bolted to the centre ministry team. It's been an incredible year for me. The youth of this congregation and Fairfield are just the most fantastic young people and watching them grow so much in the last year has been a real blessing. I was absolutely terrified to be a youth leader. Ian suggested I consider the youth leader role and every cell in my body just clenched but I felt that it was what God wanted me to do and I'm so grateful to the Children, Youth & Young Adults committee, for the scintillating conversations and the life giving decisions that have been made in that committee, for Anita for being a fantastic supervisor who has guided me along the way when I had no idea what I was doing, for the Ministry Team – Ian, Peter, Janet WK and Valentina, for the regular meetings, holding one another in prayer and encouragement. I'm so grateful for the youth of this congregation for just teaching me so much and allowing me to boss them around for a year. It's been really fantastic and I'm really grateful and I'm looking forward to just being fed for a while and just being part of this church and seeing what happens next. So thank you so much.



Ian invited Dave to come forward as Janet and Valentina in turn handed over the symbols of their ministries:

- YUCY – banner made by the YUCY crew and candle that is lit for meetings
- Student House – coffee cup of hospitality and all the keys to houses



Shawn Whelan, as Chair of Church Council, formally dissolved the ministry team, commending them all to God as they moved on to form new ministry relationships.



Ian prayed in blessing. Janet and Valentina stood in the centre of the circle as we all sang 'Christ before me'.



After our celebration of Holy Communion Janet and Valentina were presented with gifts made by the young people during worship with the support of Ann Soo and Helen Burnham. Ian also thanked Anita Brown-Major, Chair of the Children, Youth & Young Adult committee for her significant role in supporting our three interim support workers for the preceding twelve months.



Saide Cameron

## Thank you

### A Big Thanks to Anita Brown-Major

I speak today (23rd June) on behalf of the Church Council.

We would like to extend a very big thank you to Anita for her work as Chair of the Children, Youth and Young Adults committee over the past period of transition.

Anita has been part of a long process that started when Julie Perrin and Anika Jensen both resigned their positions.

Anita was an integral part of:

- The employment and supervision of our three interim workers.
- The discernment process and proposal put to the Congregation to employ a full time children's pastor.

- The Joint Nominating Committee that was tasked with the process of working with Synod and issuing a call to Dave Hall.

During all the hard work and determination and frustration and tears, Anita graciously hung in there!

Now, finally, with Dave Hall settled here at BUC, the Church Council would like to say to Anita 'Thanks so much for all that you have done and - go have a night out on us!'



Claire Foley

Anita was presented with Gold Class Cinema tickets.

## > Culture of Safety

### Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

If any member of the congregation – child or adult - has concerns about the safety of our children, particularly in relation to child sexual abuse, or the welfare of vulnerable adults, you may report this in confidence so that support can be provided. You may speak to Jane Allardice in confidence about your concern. Jane is filling in for Helen Rowe as the Culture of Safety Contact Person appointed by Church Council. Brunswick Uniting Church has a process for following up any concerns raised. Please contact Jane in person or by telephone at 0419 385 544.

### Safe Church Training

St. John's Uniting Church, Essendon, is holding two sessions of Safe Church Training in July.

- Wednesday, July 17 at 6:30pm.
- Sunday, July 21 at 11:30am.

Everyone who holds a Working With Children Check card is required to do initial training and then a refresher every three years. Unsure if you are due for a refresher? Check with Claire Foley or Helen Rowe.

Please register your interest in the Essendon sessions with Claire Foley, 0419 988 972, asap so we can let the organizers know.

## > Sharing our Faith

### Conflict in Christian Community

#### Hands up: who likes conflict?

#### What, no hands?

Well no, none of us (or a very rare few) actually likes the experience of conflict. And yet conflict, when handled well, can be a wake up call that leads to growth and important change. Could conflict – healthy conflict – even be a place where we hear the voice of God speaking to us?

Certainly conflict is part of any healthy community. In my line of work, among mediators and other conflict professionals, the absence of visible conflict is often seen as a warning sign that something unhealthy is going on in a group or organisation.

Among church leaders, I often hear the refrain “our problem in the church is that we are too nice.” We’re so careful to avoid upsetting anyone that we don’t address issues that really should be addressed.

Others lament that our churches are riven by longstanding conflicts – within as well as between congregations, Presbyteries, Synods, denominations. In some places, aggressive behaviours or factional divides are apparent, in others passive-aggressive approaches are the problem.

So it was with some relief that I heard from the Elders at BUC a shared sense that, on the whole, we deal with conflict pretty well at BUC. Yes, there are specific issues that pop up between members from time to time. But generally speaking, these are addressed well enough that people are reconciled and appropriate changes occur. Those were our reflections, at any rate, at our “dinner and discussion” format meeting in May. Would you agree?

One area we thought we could do better as Church Council was to set clear processes for dealing with conflict at BUC. After all, it is our role (according to the UCA regulations) to focus on “building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ’s mission in the world”, and to be responsible for the “discipline of members”. If someone mentioned a growing conflict to one of us, or if we noticed ourselves that BUC members clearly weren’t at peace with each other, we’d want to do something – but what?

#### Adopting a policy and process

We reflected on the “Grievance and Conflict Guidelines” published by the Synod. It embodies Biblical wisdom (Matt 18:15-20) as well as contemporary conflict resolution approaches (such as mediation). We’ve adopted this Guidelines document, with a few annotations of our own (see the flowchart on p.8 of the Guidelines – link below).

In summary, there’s a stepped process for dealing with conflicts (overt or simmering) that are damaging relationships and/or the life and mission of the congregation. Note that anyone can seek

guidance from the Church Council Chairperson (currently Shawn) or the Minister (Ian) regarding the process and how they can participate effectively in it.

1. **Early dialogue.** Both parties meet and discuss the issue. Aim to resolve the conflict as soon as possible after the incident that triggered it.
2. **Conversation assisted by the Church Council.** If not resolved at step 1, anyone can make a written complaint to Church Council. (Student House residents would first write to the Student House Committee to carry out this step for conflicts among the residents.) The Chair and/or other Elders will facilitate a conversation to seek an agreed resolution, after ensuring that all parties are receiving pastoral care. Note that this is not about determining who’s right or wrong, but promoting effective communication about the issues, joint problem solving, and restoring relationships to the extent possible.
3. **External mediation.** If step 2 doesn’t lead to resolution, dissatisfied parties can lodge a written request for Mediation. This will be provided or arranged by Presbytery’s designated pastoral care person. Again, the focus is on seeking an agreed resolution.
4. **Disciplinary action by Church Council.** If all three steps are unsuccessful, there is a detailed process for disciplinary action by Church Council. Note that this process also does not focus on who was right or wrong about the original issue, but whether a member of the congregation “appears to disregard the privileges and obligations of membership or to disregard the discipline of the church”, and whether they have “declined to renew a satisfactory relationship with the life of the Church”. Ultimately, a person can be removed from membership of the Congregation.

This bare summary doesn’t do justice to all the thinking that lies behind, and is embodied in, the Guidelines. I encourage you to look them up on the Church Council page of BUC’s website:

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

#### Where to now?

I hope and pray that we can all deal with our disagreements without painful conflict. At the same time, I know that expressing our own needs and values (as well as attending to others’) can be difficult. Imperfect as we all are, conflict sometimes results.

So I also hope and pray that when this happens, we can engage in genuine and loving dialogue with one another, as this policy asks us to.

If there are things that this article has brought up for you, please feel free to raise them with me, with other Elders, or with Ian.

## Interested in some further reading?

My favourite book on dealing with day-to-day conflicts is *Difficult Conversations* by Doug Stone, Sheila Heen and Bruce Patton (who co-authored *Getting to Yes*, another classic). Lots of other books with similar sounding titles have also been published since then, and they're mostly pretty good too! (Let me know if you have a favourite.)

A terrific resource for deeper reading and prayerful reflection is the "Spirituality of Conflict" website. Established by our good friend Pdraig O'Tuama of Corrymeela Community, it's now curated by a number of partner churches and related organisations. In the course of reflecting on the lectionary readings, they address all manner of conflicts, from everyday disagreements to serious violent conflict (such as the Troubles in Northern Ireland and their aftermath).

<https://www.spiritualityofconflict.com/about>

Shawn Whelan, Chair of Church Council

## > Pastoral Care News

### Hospitality

We have been delighted to welcome new people to Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC) this last month, several of whom have already joined BUC activities and groups. One of these groups is the Mulling Group for young adults up to the age of say, late 30's. They meet monthly usually over a shared meal and alternate between informal chats around an agreed topic or theme and inviting an expert to lead us in an informed conversation. It is a great way for new young adults to connect into this Church's community.

If you yourselves, whatever age and situation, are new or newish and wish to make yourself known to us or become more engaged with the activities and life at Brunswick Uniting Church, one of the Pastoral Care Hospitality team would love to assist you - Ian Ferguson, Jane Allardice, Ray Cameron, Sheila Calwell, Graham Lawrence and Michael Rigby.

Jane Allardice

### Community

The Community Team noted the following points from our first look at the responses to the survey offered in February:

- Morning Tea and groups offer significant opportunities for connection with others
- Committees, worship and roster participation are also valued as ways of being connected
- Conversations, groups and committees provide opportunities for pastoral care
- Barriers to participation include the busyness of our congregation and people's busy lives in relation to family commitments and full time work.

We still have more work to do with the survey especially with respect to identifying ways to respond to what we have learnt.

**Working Bee & Lunch** - Andrew Moorhouse prepared a list of tasks and after morning tea on **2nd June** a smallish group of workers got to work ticking the items off in record time. Vacuuming was a bit of a theme.



### Compassion

The Compassion Team continues to meet monthly in person and more regularly via email links as needs arise. Food has been delivered, some food placed in freezer and assistance given for supper for Refugee night.

The Prayer list is updated monthly and continues to give comfort to many knowing that prayers are being offered daily on their behalf.

For those of you about to start school holidays or who are studying for mid-year exams we wish you a safe and healthy passage of time.

Please continue to let us know if you hear of a situation where we could either be of practical assistance or offer daily prayers.

Glenice Cook on behalf of  
Ian Ferguson, Leanne Salau, Gwen Arnold and Dani Chamberlain



We enjoyed lunch - deliciously warm soup and rolls - shared with the Merri Street Project team who were meeting in the Youth Hall.



We hold three working bees a year. Our next official one is **13th October**. Save the date. Also see *Shed News*, p19, for information about a special working bee coming up on **20th July**.

**BUC Cycle on 23rd June** saw two cyclists (Graham and Ray) brave the cooler weather for a very pleasant ride to Williamstown and back with a stop off for fish & chips for lunch.

There's been lots of community activity in our diverse Arts community. See **JAM News - BUC Arts**, p12&13, for all the stories.

Over the next couple of months you can come along to or join in:

- **7th July** - [Lunch at Cafe Marcella](#), a delightful restaurant just up the road from the church offering delicious food and a lovely atmosphere.
- **11th & 18th July** - The second and third sessions of the [Worship Workshop series](#), p2
- **14th, 21st July & 4th August** - [Mechanics of the Eye Workshops](#), p13

See also Regular Events, p 15 for information about a whole variety of ways of connecting.

Please contact Saide Cameron, Ian Ferguson, Karlien Kok, Kristin Flint or Tess Alston for more information

- **28th July** - Merri Street Project Consultation Session. A detailed email about the project and planned session will be sent out soon by the Project team - Shawn Whelan, Kirsty Bennett, Amelia Ware, Meg Orton, Linda Wannan, Mikul Denison, see Council report, p16
- **4th & 8th August** - Visits from Julian Hamilton and Samuel Wells respectively, see CYA News, p 3

Saide Cameron

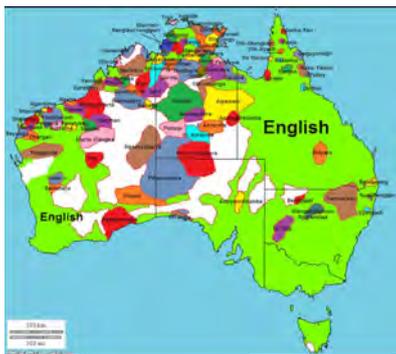
## > Worship News

### Pentecost Sunday



On **Pentecost Sunday, 9th June**, we turned out in a sea of red to celebrate the Gift of the Holy Spirit beginning with the fun or whirlies. We gathered to listen to the stories of the Tower of Babel and the astonishing events in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. We reflected on the importance of language as we prayed, sang and listened - language that keeps us apart and language that brings us together.

Dave invited the children to build a tower of cushions as Mal read the Tower of Babel story and then scattered the children to the outer reaches of the congregation

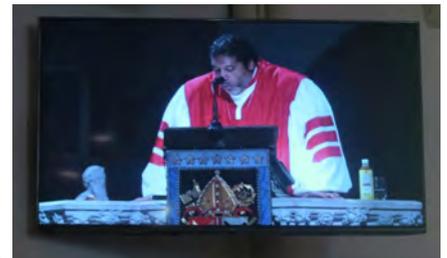


Dave showed us a map of Australia with all the languages of Australia and then taught us 4 words in the Eastern Anmatyerre language, the first being the name of the language, then marre - home, Mgarde - God, Mbitjana - Dave's skin name.

Gathering the children he showed us a photo of his Aboriginal parents - Colleen & Colin and a painting Colleen had painted.



In his sermon Ian invited us to listen to excerpts from a Pentecost sermon, '[We need a moral Pentecost](#)', delivered by Rev William Barber II at the Cathedral of St



John the Divine in New York on 5th May 2019 and later at the Festival of Homiletics which Ian attended in Minneapolis in May. Concluding the sermon he invited us into conversation with our neighbours offering a number of prompts including 'Do you connect with the idea of a moral Pentecost?'



The benediction offered these words:  
*Let's go out then to be the voice of love, offering our hands in friendship, crying out for justice, witnessing to love, always love empowered by the passion and power, wind and flame of the Holy Spirit.*



## Ecumenical Pentecost

The annual ecumenical Pentecost service was hosted by the Brunswick Indonesian UC congregation. Again people turned out in a sea of red, this time including members of the Catholic, Anglican, Baptist and Salvation Army congregations.

As we prayed together, we were reminded that our calling as members of the body of Christ is to pursue and embody justice. Our unity in Christ empowers us to take part in the wider struggle for justice and to promote the dignity of life.



As Christians from separated communities, we gathered to pray for unity. This year, the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity chosen by the churches in Indonesia is "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue." The liturgist reminded us that the theme is imperative due to the recurring situations that bring divisions and

Readings and prayers were shared among the members of the congregations and we enjoyed a special choir item 'Shine Jesus Shine'.

After worship we gathered again in the hall for a feast featuring a roast pig and other delicious treats.

## Baptism



On **Trinity Sunday, 16th June**, we celebrated the baptism of Jacob Ly. Presenting Jacob and his family, Dave Hall, Children, Youth & Young Adult Pastor said: *Friends, the church council of this congregation has received a request for baptism from Tonia for her son Jacob. This important decision has been prayerfully and carefully considered. Tonia and Jacob have met with Ian and with me to reflect and prepare. The council was delighted to approve this request, and I am glad to welcome them here today and present them to you.*

*It's excellent to welcome pretty much all of Tonia's immediate family, a number of whom have made the journey from Ballarat this morning – so welcome to two of Jacob's grandparents – Kay and Tony, uncles, aunts and cousins: Jeremy and Jane with Henry and Percy, Chris, who will also be one of Jacob's godparents, Tim and Tana, and Emily. A special welcome also to the second godparent Amy, with Chris and Luca.*



We also acknowledge Jacob's father, Quang and his family, not here today, but who are a big, loving part of Jacob's life.

Jacob is surrounded by a lot of love – from his extended family, playgroup at mum's work, and this church community. He's a bright spark of life – loves Thomas the Tank engine, loves pretty much all kinds of transport (he doesn't discriminate), Fireman Sam, helicopters, trucks, cars, and music, which is a big part of the Beggs clan.

### Prayer for Mason

Ian explained that Jacob has a brother Mason who died in the womb. Tonia lit a candle for Mason in front of the imprint of his hands and feet from his birth. He prayed

*'God of life, we remember Mason with love today, and pray that you would unite us in Spirit with him here. Although separate from us now, may we know him close to us in the embrace of your love and in the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us today. Give us comfort in grieving and peace in remembering. In the name of Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. Amen.'*



### Refugee Week

The exhibition was launched on **16th June** and featured during worship on **23rd June**. [Our prayers](#) spoke into the heart of the experience of refugees and asylum seekers, reminding us that Jesus was a refugee and that we are called to stand up, to lend our hands and our voices, to look to God and to pray with hope in the darkness.

During Children's Time Ian spoke with the children about why people might flee their country and seek refuge in another country. He took them on a journey to visit one aspect of each part of the exhibition. Each time he asked the children 'What does the artwork make them feel?'. They spoke of feeling joy, calm and amazement as they explored the particular features of each of them. Ian commented that the art offers us an opportunity to experience what it's like to be a refugee.

We listened and sang in the languages of our refugee friends. Ian posed the question ['Why should we care about refugees?'](#) in his reflection and offered verses from the Bible in response. He shared two videos from Behrouz Boochani in Manus prison before and after inviting us to engage with the various parts of the exhibitions. We offered our comments and thoughts in written and visual forms which will be collated given to the Migrant

Mothers artists and Johnny Salameh for their works. Responses to Naser will be collated into a felt. More about these gifts next month. See the [Refugee Week post](#) and [Ian's reflection](#) on our website: <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/sermons-stories/>



## Why Worship?

On Thursday 27th June we welcomed Stephen Burns, Coordinator of Ministry Studies, Pilgrim Theological College, and Professor of Liturgical and Practical Theology, University of Divinity to lead us in a conversation in response to the question 'Why worship?'

He began by sharing his fascinating journey from England to his current teaching position. You can [listen to it in the first of two recordings](#) made on the night. Stephen then told us about a movie 'Il Postino' in which the resident poet invites the postman to learn how to describe things by listening to the sounds of the island. He invited us to talk about the words we would use to describe the sounds of worship at Brunswick.

Stephen shared his first two responses to 'Why worship?'. It is both our opportunity to respond to God's invitation to be loved and to struggle together to side with the light in a world that is troubled. Through our time together Stephen made many references to the service he attended when Jacob was baptised, to the feel of what he experienced, the movement, the engagement of everyone in the act of worship. Stephen affirmed the shape of worship which we closely follow - gathering, word, table, sending, and talked about the historic and ecumenical context of what we do. He spoke of breath and gesture, rituals and symbols. He illuminated the word liturgy for us explaining that liturgy is 'of the people, for the people'. It is not about "the person up front", or about the words that the liturgist writes or offers. It is about the engagement of the gathered congregation in the act of worshipping together (of the people). It is also something that we also do that leads us out to serve people outside the walls of our church (for the people). A helpful word he used was 'communalisation'. How can we engage the whole congregation in worship? An example of how we do that at BUC is the way the children are involved in enthusiastically sprinkling the congregation with water during the remembrance of our baptisms. One major topic of discussion (prompted by a question emailed by someone who couldn't attend) was the nature of confession during worship, which led us to reflect on how we understand that part of our worship service as a way of reminding ourselves and responding to equality in the world and how we have benefitted from structures that oppress others. Plenty of food for thought.



This fascinating two way conversation which you can [listen to here](#) proved to be a very interesting evening which paves the way for the two practical worships coming up in July.

**Saide Cameron**

## > Happy Birthday

Kate Allan, Jane Allardice, Nicole Batch, Sophie Blake, Helen Burnham, Andy Calder, Joshua Calwell, William Coulson-Bourke, Narelle Crabbe, Erica Cumming, Klaus Fiedler, Ray Hardman, Sharon Hollis, Steven Hornby Susan Matthews, Allason McNamara, Emily Moorhouse, Meg Orton, Owen Parris, Olivia Potter, Ruby Quail, Janet Reus-Smit, Kate Salau-Thom, Kate Scull, Hamish White



## > Justice & Mission News

### From the committee

We missed our June meeting due to **World Refugee Day**. Instead we joined with members of the congregation and the wider community to participate in a very special presentation of the Refugee Week exhibition which included a conversation between Ian and Johnny Salameh about Johnny's prize winning work 'The Dictator' and two very moving videos from Behrouz Boochani filmed in Manus Prison.

At our meeting in July we'll be reflecting on outreach advocacy, meeting with Tim from the Synod JIM unit, completing a survey, reviewing a quote for Open your Eyes Disability Awareness Training, receiving a report from Food Co-op and reviewing the work of the various committees and programs for which we are joyfully responsible.

In the meantime please read on for a celebration of volunteers, activities in the BUC Arts ministry and Refugee Week.

## BUC Arts

The BUC Arts committee, small in numbers at the moment, delights in the breadth of activities, offered in the arts space. There are so many ways to be involved. We hope that even if you aren't directly involved with a program you have the opportunity to experience joy in the many ways in which exploring the arts shapes our community and provides space for people to be welcomed.

We met in January to review the management of our arts ministry and drafted role statements for leaders, volunteers and participants of our programs. These statements will be finalised in July and made widely available.

### Exhibition

We are very excited about hosting our bi-annual exhibition, 20th-30th September. 'What is Creativity' was held in 2017. The exhibition was spread throughout the church properties giving more than 40 artists to respond to the opportunity to share their own particular expression of artistic creativity. The exhibition included two evenings featuring performance art. The committee is hosting a brainstorming session on **Wednesday 10th July**, 1-2:30 in the Youth Hall. Please let Ann Soo or Saide Cameron know if you would like to participate. Later we will be calling on volunteers to help bring the exhibition into being.

### Olive Pesto & WWKIP

The Olive Pesto group hosted **World Wide Knit in Public Day** on **Saturday 8th June**. This wonderful event saw 106 people gathering together to knit, chat and create an astonishing array of beautiful knitted garments. This was our third outing as hosts to the event. It goes without saying that this is an exciting, colourful, creative outpouring of generosity of so many people. Our relationship with KOGO (Knit One Give One) ensures that everything created finds a home just where it is needed most.

So thank you to

- Linda Wannan, Natalie Papworth and Ann Soo for overseeing the many tasks required to make this event a reality,
- Julie McKinnon for so warmly hosting the formalities in the worship space
- Gwen Arnold for organizing the soup makers and managing the kitchen on the day, ably assisted by Claire Foley,
- Graeme Lawrence and Colin Hunter for keeping the cups of tea and coffee hot and ready,
- Andrea Zilberman, representing KOGO, for her keynote address which so clearly told the story of the humble origins of KOGO in her aunty's spare room to the extraordinary organization that it is today - do take the time to listen to the recording posted on our website. You will be amazed at the diversity of knitters and the creativity and generosity shared
- Ian Ferguson for taking such beautiful photos of our iconic 'knit bomb chair'
- and of course all the knitters - you are all amazing!!!

### Olive Arts Collective

Olive Arts, held on Wednesday mornings during Olive Way hours, is a beautiful program held in the light filled Youth Hall. The program is hosted by Ann Soo and Leanne Salau with lead artists Graeme Galloway and Phil Kreveld generously offering their skills, gifts and guidance to participants.

This past week we welcomed participants from a NEAMI arts group which has recently closed due to loss of funding. The lead artists of the program were delighted to find our program, a great gift, they commented, in a time when funding for community mental health programs is being reduced. We look forward to providing the artists space to find a welcome and ongoing relationship in Olive Arts.

The ArtStop program returns on Wednesday 17th July for 12 weeks. As outlined in the June edition of the Olive Branch, Olive Arts will move to Thursdays during this time providing two mornings for artists to gather, create art together and prepare for the exhibition.

We are looking forward to the new sheds being built which will provide us with space to more adequately store our supplies and care for the artworks produced. Thank you to everyone in making these sheds possible.



See the [post on our website](https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/wwkip-day-2019/) for Ann, Joanne and Gwen's reflections on the day together with the KOGO presentation: <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/wwkip-day-2019/>





**Olive Pesto -13th July, 10am-noon, in the Youth Hall. [Details here.](#) [Newsletter here.](#)**

## Mechanics of the Eye

This six week series, offered by artist Priscilla Manthey, invites participants to explore the purpose and understanding of the practice of Life Drawing. The series is being held in the West End of the hall with 17 people participating in the first two sessions.

Four sessions remain: **30th June, 14th & 21st July, 4th August.** The energy in the room is intense as people soak up Priscilla's expert teaching and begin their practice in Life Drawing.



**Saide Cameron**

## Olive Way Pastor update

At Olive Way our volunteers are the backbone of everything we do. They enable us to do what we do, they form relationships with our guests, and make friendships with each other. Its always amazing to watch the way a group of relative strangers find communitas in the way they work together.



many have come on board via this route. Interestingly, this year I have had many inquiries from people who have been users of Olive Way and walk-ins looking for a way to serve the community, a lot more than in previous years. We have even had a work experience student.

In January and February of this year we were really struggling with volunteer numbers. Our previous crop had finished their studies and moved on, or availabilities shifted to no longer be able to come in on the days we needed them. Nonetheless, it was wonderful to see Lucy who came to us last year via the Australian Catholic University return to wish us well for the coming year after her availability changed. She even brought us a couple of gifts from her recent trip back to Sheffield.

When I realised we were struggling with volunteer numbers I reactivated the job ad on Seek Volunteer, and got ready for the flood of interest from people. However, there was relatively little that came this time around. We still had interest but not

So now have more volunteers available to us than we need in Olive Way. In fact we have had to create some more roles for people to fill, including the grounds person role that the property committee oversee and I act as a kind of 'middle man' for.

It's a good problem to have in some ways. But the challenge is to make sure that we work together well and that we are forming a team in the process. Our volunteers come from all different walks of life and a variety of circumstances. I have come to care for them quite deeply. I always hope that they will come away from their experience with us changed in some way for the better.

**Peter Blair, Olive Way Pastor**

## Refugee Week

What a privilege it was to host the works of refugees in our space for Refugee Week. At our May meeting the JAM committee recognized that we did not have the capacity to take up the theme 'Share a meal, share a story' and wondered what we might do instead. We were so delighted when Ann Soo mentioned that she had heard of an exhibition 'HOPEFREEDOM at the No Vacancy Gallery in the QV Building in CBD hosting the works of a Naser Moradi, an artist in detention. She and Leanne Salau went to the opening and in speaking with MAFA representatives, (Melbourne Artists for Asylum Seekers) received permission to also host Naser's works. Out of this grew the exhibition. The committee greatly appreciates Ann's commitment to artistic expression and the ministry shaped by her and so many other people in our congregation and community.



The Bridge to Harmony too



Inflorescence

The exhibition featured the works of Naser Moradi, Migrant Mothers and Johnny Salameh.

See the [Refugee Week post](#) for the photos and stories of these works: <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/refugee-week-2019/>.



The Dictator

On **World Refugee Day, 20th June**, we opened the exhibition for a special event during which we spent time being with the art offered, contemplating the lives and journeys of the artists and responding to their works by writing messages on card for the Migrant Mothers and Johnny, and on pieces of calico for Naser which will be made into a felt as he is not allowed to have paper in the detention centre. Ann welcomed us affirming that this day is *'a day the world commemorates the strength, courage, and perseverance of millions of refugees. Held every year, World Refugee Day also marks a key moment for us, the public to stand alongside and show support for individuals and families forced to flee war or persecution.*

Johnny joined us on the evening for a conversation with Ian about his installation 'The Dictator'. The work won the Judges prize at the Sacred Art Festival in Queenscliff in May. In the conversation Johnny explained that he started making art so that people could know what was happening in his home country, Syria, and in the Middle East, about the tragedy and injustice, about their hopes and dreams. He explained that making art means everything to him as an expression of his passion for fighting against injustice. Speaking about 'The Dictator' he explained that it speaks of the Dictator sitting on top of people's tragedy. He hopes that his work will give people an understanding of how the dictator displaces people from their



homes and their motherland and the choice that are given - to die in their homes or to leave. He hopes that governments will respect people and that all people can live free, that people can come and live in freedom in Australia but cannot see that happening while people live in detention. [Listen to the full recording here.](#)



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We also watched two videos featuring Behrouz Boochani from the 'green hell' of Manus Island, the first titled Manus Island poem, an extraordinary and heart wrench love poem and the second a song responding to another love poem written on the wall by his Kurdish roommate when he was in Delta prison.

If you missed the exhibition then, again, please see our [Refugee Week post](#) for the photos and stories: <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/refugee-week-2019/>.

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 **fourth Sunday of the month**.

Everyone is welcome and you can come every month 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

The Mulling Group (for 25-35ish aged people) meets on the **first Tuesday** of the month, 7-9pm. We share a meal and conversation.

Contact Daniel Broadstock, 0479 039 640, for more information.

### The Olive Way

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

- Meditation - Tuesday
- 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 24th July 2019**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

Peter Greste's *The First Casualty: A Memoir from the Front Lines of the Global War on Journalism* will be the focus of our discussion in July.

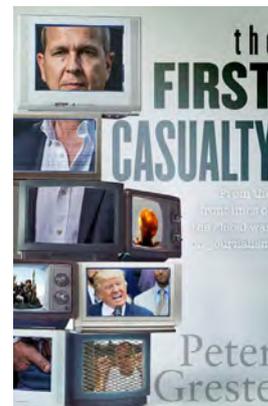
In a world where the first casualty of war is truth, journalism has become the new battleground.

Foreign correspondent, Peter Greste, offers a timely and enlightening first hand account of how the war on journalism has spread from the battlefields of the Middle East to the governments of the West, and unpicks the extent to which modern investigative journalism is under threat.

If you are interested please contact:

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 social group for older, active women and men. We visit places of interest or meet up for lunch or coffee. New members always welcome. Contact Helen Rowe for further information. Mobile 0423 009 813 or email [helen.rowe@rocketmail.com](mailto:helen.rowe@rocketmail.com)

### Saturday Coffee

Join us at 2:30 pm on the **first Saturday** each month at a local café. Very informal and all women are most welcome.

Contact Leanne Salau (9386 1484)

### Olive Pesto

At Olive Pesto we 'Make, Learn, Laugh, Share'. Come along to the Youth Hall on the **second Saturday** of the month, 10am-noon. Contact Linda Wannan, 0405 470 568.

### Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Next Distribution Day – **Saturday 20th July**, 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 0423 009 813.

## > Reports

### Church Council

*This month the Church Council has directed its eminent attention to the following matters:*

#### Merri Street Project

Our discernment wheels are turning regarding the missional future of our property at 4 Merri Street. The steering group has got underway with their first few meetings to lay out a timetable of consultation as we begin to do some big thinking around how we can repurpose this asset to the kind of mission that we are committed to in our congregation.

This month Church Council accepted a recommendation to engage the services of architect Belinda Seale, who will lead us through this process and assist us in thinking through the practical, missional, and creative aspects of how this property could be repurposed. We had a great experience with Belinda when we were considering a renovation of the Olive Way Kitchen, and we're excited to be working with her again.

The brief for which we have engaged Belinda at this stage includes leading us through this process of consultation, and doing some of the property reviewing work that will help us to better understand the potential and limitations of the Merri St site, as well as some of our general property opportunities and challenges.

Community consultation will be beginning soon, so look out for opportunities to attend some of those meetings in the near future.

#### First Aid Equipment

Church Council has approved a recommendation to purchase a defibrillator (AED), as well as Epipen and asthma equipment for storage in the church for use in emergencies. Dave Hall, Peter Blair, and Ray Cameron will be the key people on-hand who are trained in the use of these devices.

#### Children and Youth

We have been continuing to monitor and support the handover of CYA roles from our interim workers to our new CYA Pastor, Dave Hall. We are really pleased with what we have heard about

how smooth this transition has been, and with how Dave is settling into role.

Of course, this has meant farewelling our wonderful interim workers, Valentina, Janet and Janet from their roles, and we have been grateful for the insights they have given us in their exit interviews.

We have also given our most sincere thanks to Anita for holding the ship together during a long period of frustration and uncertainty. Church Council presented Anita with a very well-deserved token of that appreciation during worship on the 23/6.

#### Cleaning

Our current cleaning contractor had previously advised us that will cease operating at the end of June.

Church Council has approved a recommendation to engage ASRC (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre) Cleaning as our new contractor for these services.

This new service will be slightly more expensive than our previous contractor, but is in line with our commitment to support employment for asylum seekers.

#### Other

- We have helped to make arrangements to sustain Saide's many responsibilities while she is on holiday.
- Approved the purchase of four new headset microphones for use during worship and other events.
- Authorised the consolidation of investment funds into fewer accounts.
- Approved the Grievance and Conflict Policy (see Shawn's report, p6).
- Continued to engage with Reporting Task Group, which is proceeding to review the way that committees and employees report to Church Council and the congregation.

**Daniel Broadstock**

### Worship Committee

For our opening worship Saide offered a brief commentary on Refugee Week, of artists coming to Australia, caught between hope and creativity together with a brief reflection on Psalm 42 and the tension held in the outpourings of the psalmist. We reflected briefly on where we find refuge. A seeking prayer was offered to conclude the opening worship.

We welcomed Dave Hall to our meeting and took the opportunity to reflect on second goal which is to seek meaningful engagement with children in worship. There are many ways this is already happening and we look forward to working with Dave to explore further opportunities.

*We also discussed*

- the Merri Project and the invitation to open the Consultation workshop on 28th July with a gathering activity
- the Worship workshop series and the opportunity for practical engagement in preparing for worship
- practical matters including management of the sound system and laptop, opening external doors, youth hall bookings, the height of the lectern, planning worship services for 30th June and 7th July, editing and uploading the new collection of BUC Songs, progress on our new sheds and whether or not to have a meeting in August.

We reflected on worship for the preceding weeks noting:

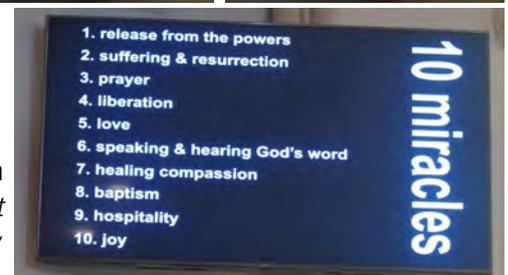
- our gratitude for the preaching of Fiona Bottcher (19/5) and Sunny Chen (26/5). Both are regular preachers and we appreciate their particular wisdom and insight. We agreed that on the Sunday following the election Fiona found a balanced response as you reflected on radical inclusion. We also noted that Sunny reflection on Jesus as the bridegroom from a Jewish perspective was very helpful in relation to conversations about marriage
- Church Camp worship (26/5) was excellent as always providing people with the opportunity to engage in the

preparation of the liturgy. Janet's celebration and release from ministry was very special in this context.

- The celebration and release from ministry for Valentina Satvedi-Leydon and Janet Hogan (2/6) was very moving with the spiral dance creating a beautiful time of blessing
- Our celebration of the Pentecost Sunday (9/6) was a time of gathering and scattering and an opportunity to reflect on language
- The baptism of Jacob Ly (16/6) was utterly beautiful with Jacob's eagerness and participation a delight to behold

**2/6 Easter 7 John 17:20-26; Acts 16:16-34** Ian and Amelia invited the children to think about Jesus prayer that we might all be one and invited them to learn a circle dance in preparation for the celebration and release from ministry for Valentina and Janet. See CYYA News, p4&5

In his sermon [Believing in Miracles](#), began by telling us that there were ten miracles from the Acts reading for today. After reflecting briefly about the understanding of miracles in our time he explained that *'For me scripture is, among other things, is a source of symbolic, mythic stories requiring rigorous interpretation, stories that speak of the relationship of God with creation, stories that point to the presence and power of God in the world.'* He spoke of the Holy Spirit having an agenda - *actively working to shape a new creation of justice, peace and love here on earth* and took us through each of the miracles, the result of the work of the Holy Spirit, leaving out number two until the very end of the sermon. Finally he commented on miracle number two - the miracle of Christian faith explaining that *'according to scholar Luke Timothy Johnson, the work of the Holy Spirit is not only revealed in it's spectacular manifestations, it is found above all in the ability of Christ's followers also to imitate the suffering of the Messiah.* Ian spoke of the similarities between Jesus' arrest, trial and suffering and that of Paul and Silas. And he wondered *'Could it be that the Spirit of God is at work in our world now?'* and asked *'Do you believe in the miracle, the miracle from which all miracles arise?'*

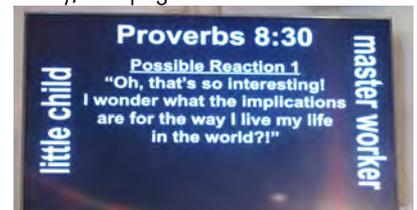


**9/6 Pentecost Acts 2:1-21; Genesis 11:1-9** On Pentecost Sunday we gathered and scattered. The children built a tower of Babel using cushions with Dave and learnt four words from the Eastern Anmatyerre language, see page 8 for more.

For his sermon ['A Moral Pentecost'](#) Ian shared his experience of listening to Rev William Barber II speaking into the American context of the need for a new moral language. He showed us video clips of the sermon through which we also experienced the call for that new language, a voice a thundering from the pulpit to a very receptive congregation. After listening to Rev Barber Ian invited us to discuss the following: *How do we translate this, a sermon that is utterly grounded in the American political context, in African American history and culture and in a Pentecostalism that is different to what we are used to hearing in Australia, into our context? What is the fire of the Holy Spirit illuminating in our history? What is the deeper moral language that she is teaching us to speak? Whose hands is she calling us to take? Do you connect with the idea of a moral Pentecost? Do you connect with the way it was presented? What did you hear and how are you moved to respond?* The volume of conversation spoke of our shared desire for a new language of compassion and love to shape our culture.

**16/6 Trinity Sunday Proverbs 8:1-33** During worship we joyfully celebrated the baptism of Jacob Ly, see page 9 for more.

Ian invited us to reflect on wisdom in his sermon ['Ambiguous wisdom'](#) and began by introducing the verse of the day - Proverbs 8:30 *'then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always'*. Ian offered us two translations of this verse from the work of Julia Clarsons, a professor of Old Testament: *master worker and little child* and our possible reactions to them. He then introduced us to wisdom: *'Sophia – Wisdom herself, the mediatrix of God's presence, the mediator of the Divine, a God like female figure ...'* Ian explained that the first followers of Jesus used Sophia Wisdom to describe Jesus. He spoke of Sophia working beside God and wondered if, as followers of Jesus, we might be called to do the same. He also reminded us of Sophia as God's delight, rejoicing always before God and wondered if we too could find *joy in creation and in other people, other people not to conform them to your expectations but to simply delight in them as other.* Concluding Ian acknowledged the beautiful ambiguity in our faith which *holds together so much that would otherwise pull us apart, holds together order and chaos, despair and delight, male and female and all the other good expressions of God's rainbow love in creation. So heed Wisdom's call, join her at God's side, listen and live. Amen*



**23/6 Pentecost 2 1 Kings 19:1-15** On Refugee Sunday Ian took the children on a journey to visit one work from each component of our Refugee Week Art Exhibition, see page 10 for more.

In his sermon '[Why should we care about refugees?](#)' he shared a number of Bible verses referencing God's call to care for refugees. See the Meditation on page 1 for further insight into this question and the response we are called to offer: *Why should we care about refugees? Above all, because Jesus is the refugee. And we are called to be where he is'*

**Saide Cameron**

## Property Committee

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

- All hall gas heaters are now operational.
- A new Cleaning contract commences on 1st July.
- Working Bee was held on Sunday 2nd June, where various items were actioned.
- The construction of the sheds commenced the week beginning Monday 24th June. There will be construction a 3-4 week period.
- The manhole hatch in the hall has been refitted.
- Large toilet paper dispensers have been installed in each toilet cubicle in the men's and women's.
- A portion of the hall steeple has been cleared of bird poo, more to be undertake. Rotten ladder removed.
- A defibrillator (AED), EpiPens and Ventolin spacer have been purchased.
- First Aid kit replacement items purchased.
- Quote received for the provision of upgraded security lighting at the student house. Submitted to Church council for approval.
- All of the gas heaters in the church properties have been tested.

*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. Tony Urwin preparing project schedule.
- 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.
- Undertake the work on the hall's operable wall skirts.
- Hatch above the east doorway between the church and the Olive Way to be finalised.
- Investigate installation of large toilet paper dispensers in disabled and youth hall toilets.
- A bird grill will need to be reinstalled on the hall steeple. Remainder of the bird poo to be removed.
- Student House painting quotes being obtained
- 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.
- Graffiti to be painted over, more has been placed on the property
- Preparing role descriptions for three activities 1) Cleaning Liaison, 2) Property Committee Member & 3) Garden portfolio.
- Finalise the repairs of the damage after the break-in.
- And more ....

**Ray Cameron**

## > News

### Community Scape Storage Facility

*A fancy name for three new sheds (a mural will be painted the wall) which are being built in front of the Youth Hall.*



This project has involved more than two years of planning and negotiating and it will soon be a reality. Work started on **Wednesday 26th June** with the slab to be poured

on Saturday. Building starts on Monday and it is hoped that the sheds will be ready for us to use before the end of July. The Worship, Justice & Mission and Property Committees have all had input into this project and we are all delighted!!

*So three sheds ...*

Who will use them? One will be for storage of larger items that are currently cluttering the hall, the Tower Room and Deaconess storeroom, for example the stage pieces. The second will be for BUC Arts and Art Stop and the third for the ASWC art program. That's the plan at this stage. We'll see how it works out.



All being well there will be a Working Bee on **Saturday 20th July** for the movement of items to take place. Please let Ray (0407 883 654) or Saide (0407 096 743) know if you are available to assist.

**Saide Cameron**

## > Communication News

### Our website

People new to the congregation often comment on our website: <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au> as one of the factors that brought them to our congregation. The website was launched in its current format on 25th June 2017, only two years ago. It feels like much longer. When the original design team met in 2015 we agreed that we wanted a website that was vibrant, relevant and interactive. We wanted a website that offered a window for the wider community into who we are, what we believe and what we offer. We also wanted a space for members for confidential information and the stuff of everyday functionality, ie the Members page. And we wanted broad engagement from the congregation in providing content and commentary.

In the two years since the launch the Web Team (Saide Cameron, Ian Ferguson and Shawn Whelan) has learnt a great deal about WordPress, the format which drives the website. We know that people from beyond our congregation read the prayers and use them in their own congregations, they listen to the sermons, download songs from Tune In, search for information relevant to their needs. Stories of ministry and

congregation life are posted regularly and then shared to our Facebook group as are the prayers and the sermons. From time to time we also share stories to our Facebook page. Pages and photos are regularly updated to maintain relevancy as well. There's a lot going on behind the scenes.

In preparation for Ray's and my upcoming Long Service Leave I've dedicated a lot of hours to preparing guidelines for much of the work required to post stories, events and prayers. The Church Council has identified people to take on some of this work in my absence. However I wonder if, now that these image rich, (hopefully) easy to follow guidelines are available, it might be possible for more people to take up the opportunity to post stories and events and so achieve the goal of broad engagement. I love the work so speak to me if you are interested.

The bank of guidelines is available in the Members Section of our website, go to the [Council & Committees](#) page and click on **Website Guidelines** under **Communication**.

Saide Cameron

## > Preaching Plan

July 7	Worship Committee with Janet Reus-Smit presiding <b>Holy Communion</b>	August 4	Julian Hamilton with Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>	September 1	Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>
July 14	Ian Ferguson	August 11	Ian Ferguson	September 8	Ian Ferguson
July 21	Ian Ferguson	August 18	Ian Ferguson	September 15	Ian Ferguson
July 28	Ian Ferguson	August 25	Ian Ferguson	September 22	Ian Ferguson

## > Lectionary

### After Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with feast of Christ the King

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
7/7	Pent 4	2 Kgs 5:1-14	Ps 30	Gal 6:(1-6), 7-16	Lk 10:1-11, 16-20	G
14/7	Pent 5	Am 7:7-17	Ps 82	Col 1:1-14	Lk 10:25-37	G
21/7	Pent 6	Am 8:1-12	Ps 52	Col 1:15-28	Lk 10:38-42	G
28/7	Pent 7	Hos 1:2-10	Ps 85	Col 2:6-15 (16-19)	Lk 11:1-13	G
4/8	Pent 8	Hos 11:1-11	Ps 107:1-9, 43	Col 3:1-11	Lk 12:13-21	G
11/8	Pent 9	Is 1:1, 10-20	Ps 50:1-8, 22-23	Heb 11:1-3, 8-16	Lk 12:32-40	G
18/8	Pent 10	Is 5:1-7	Ps 80:1-2, 8-19	Heb 11:29-12:2	Lk 12:49-56	G
25/8	Pent 11	Jer 1:4-10	Ps 71:1-6	Heb 12:18-29	Lk 13:10-17	G
1/9	Pent 12	Jer 2:4-13	Ps 81:1, 10-16	Heb 13:1-8, 15-16	Lk 14:1, 7-14	G

## July Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">June 30</p> <p>9:30 – Ian Ferguson <b>HC</b> <b>Reflective worship</b> 12:00 –Mechanics of the Eye</p> <p>5:00 – Indonesian W’p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">July 1</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation</p> <p>7:00 – Mulling</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p> <p>6:45 – JAM Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>7:30 – Synod Opening W’p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>2:30 – Coffee</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>9:30 – Janet Reus-Smit <b>HC</b> with Worship Committee 11:45 – Lunch at Marcella’s</p> <p>4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation</p> <p>7:30 – Church Council</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 1:00 – BUC Arts planning</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p> <p>7:30 – Worship Workshop</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Pesto</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>9:30 – Ian Ferguson 12:00 –Mechanics of the Eye</p> <p>5:00 – Indonesian W’p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner</p> <p>7:30 – Worship C’tee</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p> <p>7:30 – Worship Workshop</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>7:30 – YUCY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>10:00 – Food Co-op</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>9:30 – Ian Ferguson <b>Baptism</b> 12:00 –Mechanics of the Eye</p> <p>5:00 – Indonesian W’p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation</p> <p>7:30 – Property C’tee</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>10:00 - Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner</p> <p>7:30 – Book Club</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:30 – Merri St. Workshop</p> <p>5:00 – Indonesian W’p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">August 1</p> <p>10:00 – Olive Way</p> <p>7:30 – YUCY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>2:30 – Coffee</p>