

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

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

## > Meditation

### Synod 2019



The meeting of our Synod (the council that makes decisions for the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania) began in worship on Friday 5th July at St Michael's Uniting Church in the city. The service saw the passing on of the moderator's role from Sharon Hollis to Denise Liersch, and we sang my current favourite worship song "The Canticle of the Turning"!

This Synod meeting happened during NAIDOC week and this was well acknowledged. Aunty Georgina Nicholson an elder from the Wurundjeri Council welcomed us to country on Friday night, and the Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress from both Victoria and Tasmania addressed us during the meeting. There was a strong focus on celebrating First People's culture and I enjoyed hearing about the good work being done at the two cultural hubs, Narana in Geelong and Leprena in Glenorchy, Tasmania.

The largest item of business considered by the Synod was a proposal to allow UCA hospitals and aged care agencies in Victoria to offer Voluntary Assisted Dying under the new Victorian legislation. This important decision was discussed and edited in working groups before being passed by the whole Synod. I particularly appreciated the Working Group process which allowed everyone to have input in a way that I felt influenced the final form of the proposal positively. It affirmed the range of faithful Christian responses to the legislation and gave permission to UCA institutions in Victoria to allow VAD within their facilities. [See the final resolution here](#)

For the past few years I have been a member of the Synod Creative Design Team whose task is to help the Synod do its work in efficient and creative ways. One of our innovations has

been "Choose Your Own Adventure" reporting. Various church bodies present sessions in different places simultaneously and members go to those that interest them. I attended:

- the Synod Ethics Committee where we practised engaging theologically with ethical issues
- the Equipping Leadership for Mission unit session on Justice for Refugees at which Andi Jones the director of the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre spoke
- a session on intercultural worship where we explored a traditional Korean mode of prayer
- a presentation on internet freedom and child abuse.
- The Creative Design Team also hosted an evening showcasing the work of Presbyteries.

Other business over the four days concerned reimagining property for mission, and stewarding leadership among under 50s in the church. There was a proposal of support for the Uluru Statement From the Heart, and another in support of Workers from the Pacific on Australian farms. The Synod's Disability Action Plan was launched by Synod Disability Inclusion Advocate Rev (Deacon) Andy Calder, and the Synod resolved to call on the Commonwealth Government to safeguard the safety and wellbeing of people living with disability.

Each day included a thoughtful and engaging bible study presented by Liz Boase from South Australia, and concluded with a theological reflection on the day's work by some of the younger members of Synod. This was an excellent way to contextualise the work of the Synod and reflect on who we are and what we are doing.

Ian Ferguson

<https://victas.uca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Synod-proposal-26-Response-to-Victorian-Voluntary-Assisted-Dying-Legislation-Unconfirmed-minute.pdf>

## > Worship Calendar

### First Sunday of the month



On the **first Sunday of each month** we worship as a whole congregation and celebrate **Holy Communion**. The children remain with the congregation for the whole service, participating in different ways and spending time in the **Gathering Space** taking part in an activity shaped by the theme of the service.



We are grateful to Helen Burnham and Ann Soo for the generous creativity they bring to these activities.

For **August and September** the first Sundays will also feature



**'Bring a Plate to Share'** morning teas after worship. Please think about what you can bring as we test out this not so new way of sharing morning tea.

### Julian Hamilton visit

[Julian \(Jools\) Hamilton](#), Irish Methodist Chaplain at Trinity College Dublin will be the guest preacher at Brunswick Uniting on **Sunday 4th August**. We will celebrate Holy Communion. See CYYA News for more information.



### Ian on leave

We welcome Rev. Colin Hunter, member of our congregation and retired Baptist minister, as our preacher on **Sunday 11th August** while Ian is on leave for the weekend.

### Welcoming Ceremony

During worship on **15th September** we will offer our second [Welcoming Ceremony](#) for the year. This will be an opportunity for people who are new to the congregation to name Brunswick UC as their spiritual home. Participants are invited to share a little of their story, then they and we make commitments to each other.

### Season of Creation

Leading into the biennial BUC Arts exhibition **'Let the earth speak'** we will offer a **Seasons of Creation** series during worship commencing on **22nd September** and continuing for 2-3 weeks. On **29th September** worship will be shaped by the works offered for the exhibition. See JAM News for more information.

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## > Culture of Safety

### Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

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

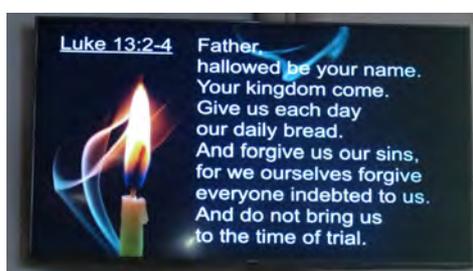
## > Merri Project News

**Worship** - The first in a series of three consultation workshops for the Merri Project was held on Sunday 28th July, [Pentecost 7](#). The service was shaped by Luke's teaching about prayer – Lord's Prayer. Ian invited us to reflect on what this prayer say to us about our mission as a church?



Ian invited the children to come forward and first presented Janet Watson Kruse with a beautiful framed collection of scratch boards prepared by the children inspired by words that reminded them of Janet's ministry as the Interim Children & Families Worker. Janet said this would be her most precious piece of artwork.

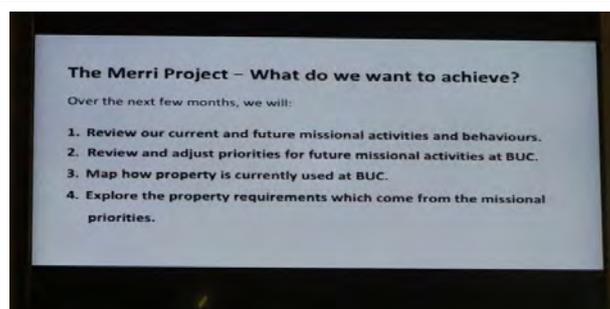
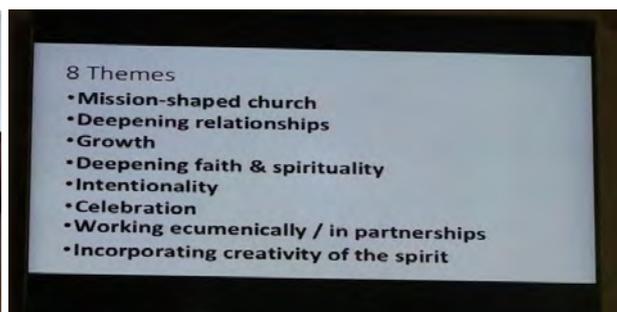
Dave Hall then invited Julie Perrin to come forward and remind us of the beautiful gestures which she created for the Lord's Prayer during her time as the Children & Families Pastor. Dave commented that one of the most beautiful lines in the prayer is about bread 'Give us today our daily bread'. Together they brainstormed other times in the Bible when bread is mentioned and shared the bread as they did so - the Last Supper, Jesus saying 'I am the bread of life' and the bread of heaven (manna in the desert).



In his sermon [Teach us to pray](#) Ian took us through Luke's version of the prayer, an earlier, slightly different version to Matthew's with which we are more familiar. He reminded us of the subversive way in which Jesus names God as Father. He spoke of the challenge put to us when we pray 'Hallowed be your name'. He celebrated the promise and challenge in the line 'Your kingdom come'. Reflecting on 'Forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us' he commented that *in the Bible financial or property debt forgiveness is a huge thing*. 'And do not bring us to the time of trial, to the testing time' was a reminder that *'Trial, testing and temptation is always about faith in the Bible'*. Ian said that *'Jesus invites his disciples to ask God for the favour of being excused from further testing'*. He asked us [questions each time](#) and concluded *'As we reflect together today on what it means for us to be a missional presence here on this site in this community, as we reflect on this way how will we name God and evoke God's essence? How do we make the mystery of divine love known? How do we embody God's reign of peace? How do we share the sacred surplus with a hungry world – necessity and abundance? What debts are to be released in us and by us? How do we rest in grace? Jesus teach us to pray. Amen'*

### Workshop

Shawn Whelan, Chair of Church Council welcomed and offered us an introduction to the workshop outlining the issues in relation to the Merri Cottage (adjacent to the Youth Hall), the need to review the use it and other property in our care. He commented that this is an opportunity to consider our missional priorities, building on what have done and are already doing. He also reminded us of the 6 major commitments embedded in our current strategic plan and of our eight mission themes. Shawn invited us in this workshop to review our current and future missional activities and behaviours.



Ian reminded us that The Lord's Prayer can guide us in our thinking about mission affirming that mission isn't what we do. It's what God does and if we dare we are caught up in it. We took some time to look at Ian's collection of photo cards and to place them on the trunk and branches of the tree that shaped the mission report which resulted in our current strategic plan.

Ian reminded us that God's mission is the saving transformation of all creation through world transforming love. He said that we are invited to be missional rather than to do mission and everything we do as individuals builds up the whole community in God's love.



Shawn introduced Belinda Seale who has been engaged as a consultant to work with the Merri Project committee - Shawn Whelan, Linda Wannan, Meg Orton, Kirsty Bennett, Amelia Ware, Mikul Denison. Belinda invited us to participate in the first of two small group work sessions. The first was an invitation to respond to the question '[How are we responding to God's missional call now?](#)'. Later each group shared one story from our discussions with the whole group. We wrote our reflections on butcher's paper which were posted up around the walls.



After a delicious lunch of soup (thank you

Alistair Hunter, Christine Hornby and Claire Foley) and rolls (thank you Wayne & Susan Matthews) Kirsty Bennett shared 'Bromley by Bow - A Story to Celebrate' an inspiring story from another time in her professional life when she worked with John Emmett to prepare the first version of the Mission Motivated Development booklet. She said '*One of the things we did as part of that Synod work was take a small group of UCA people to meet 2 ministers Andrew Mawson and Peter Southcombe of the United Reformed Church in the UK and learn about social enterprise. That experience made a big impression on me and my understanding of mission and being church. There is so much to say about this but to give you a few highlights from one place ...*



*We went to visit Bromley by Bow in the east end of London. We went there because it was (and is) a worshipping congregation, the home of the first integrated health centre in Britain, and had lots of successful social enterprises.*

In her story Kirsty spoke of the architecture of Bromley by Bow and the way they approached things and of the connections made through the architecture. She commented on the way in which this small elderly congregation said 'yes', of the welcome they offered and their openness to ideas. Their minister Andrew Mawson walked the streets and talked to people. She said *He became known, and he got to know who was around and what their hopes and passions and needs were*. This Kirsty said enabled them to respond

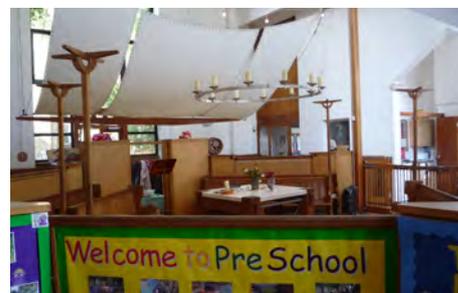
to people's needs. Kirsty shared Jean's story and the way in which this led to the development of a fully integrated health centre. And she commented on the strength of their clear vision, of the remembering they did together and their visible relevant presence in 2007 when the London bombings occurred.

Kirsty concluded: *I think you will recognise there are already parallels between Bromley by Bow and BUC. But what more can we be? Can we too be a place that in the time of joy or crisis, people think, 'we will go to BUC'. Not because they are worship here on Sunday, but because BUC is an integral part of the community.*

Kirsty's story will be available on the Merri Project page: <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/member-area/the-merri-project/>

See also: [U tube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjjOf-mJ4gk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjjOf-mJ4gk) How to get things done: Lord Mawson and social enterprise

In the second group work session Belinda invited us to respond to the question '[How will we respond to the God's missional call in 2-3 years time?](#)' We referred to the [Synod mission principles](#) in our conversation. At the conclusion of the time for sharing our responses Belinda indicated that she would be taking all the pieces of butcher's paper to collate them and bring them back to the Merri Project group to guide the next steps in the consultation process.



Saide Cameron

## > Pastoral Care News

### Hospitality

With excitement and joy we celebrated the Baptism of Joshua Witty with their parents Steph Gesling and Matt Witty. There were numerous family and friends who came for the Baptism, some from interstate and from other parts of Victoria. It is always great to welcome visitors to our services.

If you are new or newish to Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC) and would like to find a pathway to belonging or would like more information about what goes on at BUC, please make yourself known to the pastoral care hospitality team. We would love to assist you - Ian Ferguson, Jane Allardice, Ray Cameron, Sheila Calwell, Graham Lawrence and Michael Rigby.

**Jane Allardice**

### Compassion

The Compassion Team has met and discussed any matters of concern. Decisions have been made regarding best actions to be taken and if necessary matters have been referred to relevant committees. There have been the usual phone calls, visits etc. and the Prayer list has been updated.

We offer our love, thoughts and prayers to Andrew & Jill, Emily, Adam and Hamish, Meg & David, Charlie and Fergus Moorhouse following the death of much loved father, father-in-law and grandfather Dr. Harry Moorhouse on 15th July. His funeral was held in Ballarat on 22nd July.

Unusually this has been a quieter month for the Compassion team - Glenice Cook, Ian Ferguson, Leanne Salau, Gwen Arnold and Dani Chamberlain.

**Glenice Cook**

### Community

#### Anyone for lunch?

Twenty people gathered at **Cafe Marcella** for lunch after worship on **7th July**. We enjoyed our choices from the delicious lunch menu with lots of conversation being also enjoyed along the way.



**Soup and rolls** warmed us for lunch on **28th July** during the first of the Merri Project workshops. Thank you to the soup makers - Alistair Hunter, Claire Foley and Christine Hornby and providers of rolls & bread sticks Susan & Wayne Matthews.



There are few more opportunities to enjoy lunch together over the coming months including:

- **15th September - Potluck lunch**  
After the [Welcoming Ceremony](#) everyone is welcome to stay on for a Pot Luck Lunch. If your surname starts with A-J please bring something savoury (main course, nibbles, bread, salad) and if it starts with K-Z please bring something sweet (dessert, fruit, drinks).  
RSVP to Saide Cameron, [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com) with details of what you are planning to bring so that we have an idea of numbers and time to make adjustments if necessary.
- **13th October - BBQ Lunch**  
Join in the fun of the [Working Bee](#) after worship and then enjoy a BBQ with all the other hard working workers. Offers of assistance with the BBQ are most welcome.
- **24th November - Pastries & Fruit lunch**  
After the **Congregational Meeting** everyone is welcome to stay on for a light lunch of delicious pastries from A1 Bakery and delicious fresh fruit platters.

#### Also coming up

- **8th August - Mulling**  
**Part 1: Dinner at The Retreat Hotel** (280 Sydney Road) at 6.00-7.20pm.  
*Thursdays are \$14 steak night.*  
**Part 2: Northey Lecture: Citizens of Heaven:** Identity, Inclusion and the Church/For Such a Time as

This: The Church's Opportunity by Rev Dr Samuel Wells at 7.30pm at Brunswick Uniting Church. Dr Wells is a priest at St Martin in the Field in London and Professor of Christian Ethics at Kings College. The lecture is free but you must register through [Try Booking here](#)

- **7th September** - Mystery Mulling Movie FUNdraising event, more news to come!
- **27th September to 7th October** - BUC Arts biennial exhibition 'Let the Earth Speak'
- **20th October** - [Blessing of the Bikes](#)

### Worship Workshop series

The worship committee offered a series of three workshops beginning on **27th June** with 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?'** See the July Olive Branch, p 11 for the story.

#### Passion for Prayer

The second workshop focussed on **'Writing Prayers'**. Our gathering of 12, on **Thursday 11th July** at BUC, started with inspiring and wide ranging discussion about 'what is prayer', led by Rev Ian Ferguson.



Defining prayer showed the diversity within the Brunswick Uniting community from using traditional definitions e.g. adoration & praise, confession, intercessory, thanks giving, blessings, through to the poetic, drawing upon other traditions & the mystical. Prayer was seen as personally centring, connecting with God, transformational, transporting us into Spirit & places where we may be blissfully 'oblivious'. The intent of prayer, its focus are key, opening and re-centring us, offering space, possibly painful emotional, grief & soul searching as well as joy and grace.

We explored the passion and creativity that the group felt about prayer, through words, thoughts feelings and bodily sensations & movement that came before, during and as part of the process evoked by prayer development & offering. Prayer in public was particularly deep, powerful and simultaneously personal when undertaken with the community. It is interactive, coming from the heart, in human rhythm, resonating & impacting upon & with the community. Thus the power of collective consciousness on our own individual experience of prayer & vice versa.

We discussed the ingredients of prayer – the voice used, the importance of rhythm and tone, the preparation and setting up the atmosphere for the prayer, hopefully drawing us in. The importance of human feeling and emotion in the 'Prayer' was crucial. Use of intuition, quiet reflective space to prepare and allowing Spirit to move through the writer/creator, is crucial.

Prayer can be wordy, with words being a distraction. The mind may go off on tangents with feelings of guilt for not staying focused (or is this actually what prayer is?), or words may offer structure, especially chants/mantras, the simplicity & repetition drawing us deeper into truth, wisdom, love & God's divinity. Prayer needs to be relevant, relating to the group, sharing & refocusing our common values hope's and concerns

Discussions touched on varying theologies, spiritual experiences and mystical connections amongst the Trinity through to God as the Divine, the Goddess, Sophia, the Feminine and the multiple names of God in Christianity & other faiths through to the interconnectedness between us & beyond ourselves. Prayer has space for the person who has no fixed belief or is different from the Christian perspective.

The Mystery of God is emphasised in prayer & is an avenue to connecting us with the humanness of Jesus, and us as imperfect vessels of the Divine. What impact do our prayers have? Are they coming from our own need /egos /emotions? – yet God uses us in our humanness to express Spirit, despite these impulses. It is a mystical transformation through words, silence & the sacred space.

Peter spoke about his process of prayer development, including a handout – 1. Mindset. 2. Approach – researching, awareness of the audience & the needs of the community bring yourself in to the process, seeing yourself as the medium of the message. 3. Post writing return & reflection, to be vigilant about words so they are not oppressive or too many. 4. Pray about the prayer; stand aside looking for the relevance, sitting with the words, open & receptive but a dynamic process. 5. Allowing God's grace to speak – 'Not mine will oh God but thine.'

Saide inspired us deeply and joyfully with her infectious passion for prayer and liturgy. Her inspiration comes from meeting with the preacher, reading Natalie's blogs of soul music, engaging in the readings for that week, reflecting on community experiences, seeking a common thread, with songs and prayers, embracing the overview of the service to keep the balance, the pattern, the shape of the liturgy and how the prayers move through the service. She has written adoration, confession, lament & many other prayers each of them reflecting God's grace & her awe of God, the loving energy and how Jesus changes lives though his humanness and divinity.

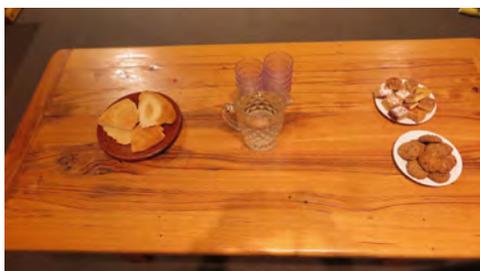
Putting theory into practice, we reflected upon the Gospel reading of the Good Samaritan for the coming Sunday service (Luke 10: 25). We then worked individually and wrote for 10 – 15 minutes, the prayers produced to be interspersed in service on Sunday 14th July 2019, spoken by their creators. This process crystallised into the Worship service with which God's grace, all fitted into the format and flow of service.



pray-ers praying before worship

We were all struck by the creativity, depth, joy and passion about prayer from each of the participants, each bringing a unique aspect of living prayer and spirituality as members of the congregation at BUC.

Jenne Perlstein



## Sensory Prayer

Ian opened the final workshop on **18th July** by asking us to reflect on how we feel during worship and what kind of sensations we have noticed in our bodies. We then moved together through a series of prayer stations designed to engage each of our senses in turn. Holding the weight and smooth coolness of river stones and exploring the materiality of crosses made from timber, metal and ceramics; creating sound with percussion instruments; looking at the colour, detail and texture to be found in a series of photographs; tasting something sweet and tart around the communion table; and smelling wafts of daffodils jonquils, warm candle wax and burning incense at the final station.

Although each station was dedicated to a particular sense, we noticed how all of our senses became engaged as we concentrated on each experience, with comments shared noting the particular texture of bread, the colour of flowers and the weight of instruments.

After our journey through the senses, Ian read a story about Jesus' baptism to us from the Bible, encouraging us to listen with our whole being. We were invited to create our own sensory prayer in response to the reading. Many different prayers emerged, including to sit in stillness holding the weight of a ceramic cross, to sprinkle drops of water on flowers and to hover a hand over the flame of a candle, feeling wafts of hot air rising like the movement of a river.

Although it did feel a little unfamiliar to be praying and responding in this way, the sensory workshop was a worthwhile experience that opened up my mind to different ways of perceiving and understanding. I will be interested to see what kind of sensations I notice or can engage during worship from now on.

**Amelia Ware**



## Baptism



On **Sunday 21st July** we celebrated the baptism of **Joshua Ellis Whitty**, son Steph Gesling & Matt Whitty. Dave Hall presented Joshua for baptism saying: It's excellent to welcome a large number of Steph and Matt's family and some close friends here today to witness Joshua's baptism. So, from Bendigo (for one of Matt's grandma's), Newcastle, Sydney, Wollongong, and even those who've made the arduous journey from the eastern suburbs of Melbourne – welcome. It's great that you are here. Joshua's baby cousin Harry and their parents are with us in spirit from Darwin.

A special welcome to Joshua's godparents Sarah and Tristan, with their daughters Niamh (pn Neve) and Connie.

While pregnant, Steph and Matt didn't know if they were having a boy or a girl. They nicknamed their bump Yoshie, inspired apparently by the dinosaur hatchling from Mario Brothers, as you do. His middle name, Ellis, is Emily Bronte's pen name (author of Wuthering Heights). In Matt and Steph's words, it wasn't a key reason why they chose that as his middle name, but makes for quite good literary trivia.





## Farewell



We farewelled Bethany Davey (for the second time!) and Elizabeth Stoel from the Student House during worship on **7th July**. Bethany and Elizabeth are moving into a shared house together.

Dave Hall prayed giving thanks to God for the nurture they have received in their time with us and that like a path will be made for them in their lives to come and for living giving water in the desert.

Bethany, on behalf of both herself and Elizabeth, thanked everyone involved for the opportunity to live in the household in the last few years and for the opportunity to connect with the wider church community.



## Worship Rosters

*What do you notice when you arrive for worship?* Maybe the musicians rehearsing, certainly people talking in the Gathering Space, some people sitting quietly in the pews. Maybe you go out to the hall for some reason and notice people setting up for morning tea or other people setting for the Sunday Morning Program. Maybe you see the preacher and liturgist quietly praying before worship with other people involved in leading worship? Maybe you see some beautiful floral arrangements.

*And then after worship what do you notice?* Maybe some clearing and cleaning up around the place. On Communion Sundays you might notice people packing up the children's activities in the Gathering Space and other people washing glasses in the Olive Way kitchen. Maybe you notice the people quietly guarding the chapel space where tapers are being lit for personal prayers or out in the Olive Way minding the Olive Way sliding glass doors to ensure our children are safe during morning tea. And out in the hall maybe you see people serving tea & coffee, clearing tables and washing up.



*There is so much activity before, during and after worship.* All this is supported by an intricate and beautiful two-month roster system made up of twelve individual rosters allowing approximately 64 people to support the work of worship. Being on the roster is such a great way to spend time with people and get to know someone better. There are roles that involve a time commitment with preparation and others that simply require you to turn up early for or stay on later afterwards.

There are always gaps on the roster which results in some people offering their time on multiple Sundays to support the work of worship. Current gaps are for providing flowers, minding the Olive Way door, operating the laptop and sound system. Have a think, have a look at the current roster. Check out the guidelines. Contact Saide, [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com) to find out more or to make an offer.



PS - Thank you to Valmai Brunlow for her always beautiful floral arrangements.

## > Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

Hi there BUC folks,

Here are a few snippets of the last month from my perspective: what has happened, things to look forward to, coming events, starting with the youngest...

### Olive Pips (Brunswick UC Playgroup)

The next Olive Pips playgroup will gather soon...! We are hoping to celebrate the launch of Nagma's new children's book. If you'd like to be kept in the loop, contact me below.

A pastoral joy and ministry highlight was being involved in the baptism of Steph and Matt's

son, Joshua. Their family came from everywhere to witness his baptism, and it was a great joy for me to also welcome to church my Aboriginal sister and mum, Tanya and Eileen Bird on the same day.



Tanya Bird with Shawn Whelan and Bush Plum women's business painting

### Sunday Morning Program (SMP)

The exciting project for Term 3 is underway – creating a beautiful mural out of the fairly ugly office wall. We are rapt to have Graeme Galloway help us with this project. Graeme is a real-live mural artist! Ann Soo is also helping, and we are keen to make use of even more of the adult artistic talent at BUC. It'll be the kids creation. The broad theme is a river, picking up the river and water motifs in the Bible, the indigenous river stone installation at the front corner of BUC, and Julie Perrin's "Pathways to the River" report from a few years ago.



Graeme working with the children

The Term 3 Roster is out. Some volunteers later in the Term (after the mural project) would be particularly appreciated.

The Worship Committee, Ian and I continue to explore ways to meaningfully involve children and young people during worship.



### Youth Group

#### every second Friday night

17 young people went to the Escape Room at the end of Term 2. All 17 were safely returned to their parents. Term 3 started with The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, an amazing film about stepping out of a comfortable life.

- **Friday 2 August** is Ninja Tag and a Scavenger Hunt,
- **Friday 16 August** is Rock Climbing, and
- **Friday 30 August** is MasterChef Pizza Making.

It's for young people in Years 7 to 10. Contact me (Dave) to be kept in the loop.

### Student House

Bethany Davey and Elizabeth Stoel have been big contributors to the Student House in recent years. They were both blessed and farewelled on Sunday 7 July. See *Worship News*, p8

We welcome Jean Saker to the house, and the BUC community. Jean has lived up near Cairns since she was ten (after the family emigrated from Papua New Guinea).

Jean 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/faith-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.

## 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-ish), where Jools can share a bit more of his wisdom about faith, life, the Bible and all things good.



\*\* <https://ctm.uca.edu.au/ctm/events/northey-lecture-citizens-of-heaven-identity-inclusion-and-the-church/>

## 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. [Read more](#) \*\*



Grace and peace, **Dave Hall**  
Pastor: Children, youth and young adults  
0417 310 128, [davehall1373@gmail.com](mailto:davehall1373@gmail.com)

## > JAM News

### From the Olive Way Pastor

In case you have missed it, our very own Julie Perrin contributed [a piece to the Age](#) that appeared on Sunday 21st of July. It has appeared across the spread of Fairfax papers, including the Sydney Morning Herald and the Brisbane Times. It tells the story of Alex, as Julie encountered him at Olive Way, struggling to make ends meet on the paltry Newstart allowance, whilst waiting for three years for his Disability Support Pension to come through (including time before that). We have come to know Alex through Olive Way since he first started coming in August 2017, a friendly chap, often willing to help out, and never one to complain (despite having plenty to complain about).

Alex is not alone. There are plenty more people like him that we have come to know through our cosy little nest in Brunswick. Alex has a phenomenal memory and is able to recall conversations and details that leaves me in awe. A conversation with Alex will include exact times and dates, as well as verbatim details of what was said in a previous encounter. My own memory is so full of holes I am usually left lost in the details after a few minutes. But what Alex is able to do, and has had to do, is to advocate for himself. He does this really well, and it is a skill he has taught himself through experiencing many hardships in life.

It is the ones who are not able to advocate for themselves that leave us stumped as to what to do for them. We have another friend who is in his early 60s, homeless for about 20 years. Over that time his health has deteriorated. He has heart troubles, possible diabetes, arthritis, and has recently had surgery on his foot. He was grateful for the surgery because after the operation he was given a cottage at St Vincents to recuperate in for about 2 weeks. I must admit, whilst I knew it was temporary, I was relieved to know he had a roof over his head for that time. When I saw him this week, he told me that he was back out on the streets. He has no income, as he has no fixed address, and so he remains in a vicious cycle, falling through the gaps.



Stories like Alex's and our other friend's always make you want to help. It never seems enough when there is always so much more need out there. What I have come to believe even, more so, is that our role is not to fix the situations that people like Alex face, but to be a place where they are held in a supportive and loving community. We didn't fix Alex's problem, Alex did that on his own, but we shared the road with him. We mustered support where we could, we attended whatever appointments as were appropriate for us to attend; Alex did the rest.

Julie's article has contributed to the national conversation about the fairness of the Newstart scheme. It tells a real-life story of a human being, not a statistic on a page of other statistics. These are real-life scenarios. On the strength of Julie's article we have even had a volunteer enquiry!

**Peter Blair**, Olive Way Pastor

Link to the article: <https://www.theage.com.au/national/no-lights-no-linen-how-alex-survived-for-six-years-on-newstart-20190717-p5284q.html>

## From the committee

We welcomed Tim Molineux to our meeting on 4th July. Tim is the **Social Justice Officer for the Synod**. Tim is currently meeting with congregations to listen to what is happening in relation to social justice and is seeking to provide connections, raise awareness and support networking. The [Justice & Internationalist Mission \(JIM\) unit](#)'s key role is advocating on issues and providing policy advice. Tim acknowledged the rich story around social justice in the wider church that needs to be told and is working to find ways to share these stories more broadly than is currently happening.

Look out for the new **Olive Way** brochure - an easy way to become informed about this important ministry. We are all invited and encouraged to drop in to visit the Olive Way whenever time permits. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Richard Arnold, 0407 796 429.

We celebrated recent activities in the **BUC Arts ministry** including World Wide Knit in Public Day and Mechanics of the Eye (see the stories in the July Olive Branch).

- We affirmed the upcoming and now in action trial of Olive Arts meeting on Thursdays while the Art Stop program runs on Wednesdays for the second semester for the year. There have been good numbers attending on both days for the first two weeks of this trial.



- Saide and Ann have met with George and Ellie (ArtStop Lead Artists) to discuss storage of art supplies and artworks in our new sheds and shelving once the project is completed.
- Role descriptions have been written for the BUC Arts ministry.
- We are looking forward to the outcomes of the brainstorming session for the upcoming biennial exhibition.



- Olive Pesto recently blitzed their abundant supplies of wool to knit many articles to donate to KOGO.

As planned we are having a quieter year with respect to **FUNdraising**. However there is still some activity ...

- We were delighted to celebrate Kate Kirkwood's generous donation of \$1689 to the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre, the outcome of another Brooch Day event, this time held in Brisbane. (Kate is Peter & Julie McKinnon's daughter.) The money will once again be used to support the Learn to Drive program. Another \$75 was raised through the sale of DVDs and CDs donated by a member of Janet Reus-Smit's family.
- The Mulling crew are holding an event on 7th September. More details after their gathering in August.
- In Term 4 we will begin focussing on our preparations for the Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal. This may involve using a coffee cup model of fundraising.

We received the report from the **Food Co-op's** Annual General Meeting, noting and celebrating, the revitalization of the Food Co-op both in general membership and on the committee. The Food Co-op received an Australia Post grant to run Sustainability Workshops.

We are once again turning our attention to **Advocacy and Community Actions**.

- We discussed a number of events and actions that we can both support and promote.
- Thank you to everyone involved in Love Makes a Way for maintaining our attention on the terrible treatment of asylum seekers trapped in detention. Six years is definitely too long.
- We are thankful also to Jamie Thom for keep our attention focussed on Climate Action through the Olive Press each week.



Richard Arnold will be heading up a project to collect stories from people within the congregation to celebrate how our faith informs our work - broadly defined as everything we do. More details about this project will be coming soon.

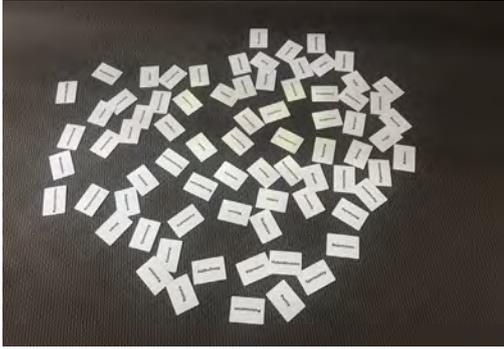
We also discussed:

- an opportunity to invite Abby Elmobayed to speak to us about the EAPPI program
- the Open Your Eyes training offered by Arts Access
- the Welcome Packs proposed the Pastoral Care Hospitality committee
- the BUC Bookings Policy and the intricacies of public liability insurance
- reporting to Church Council and the congregation
- composting and obtaining a new green bin
- work on the storage shed and plans for sharing the three compartments across worship, BUC Arts and ArtStop.

**Saide Cameron**

## BUC Arts

### Let the Earth speak



Ian hosted our brainstorming session on 10th July. We reflected together first on Isaiah 42:16-21 choosing words in response and then sharing why we had chosen them. Ian then read the parable of the Good Samaritan and invited us to choose photos and again share why we have chosen them.



Gathering all these words and photos together we reflected further on what is happening in our world. The Justice & Mission committee had encouraged us to consider a social justice theme for the exhibition. As we sat we found ourselves talking about climate change, how we might respond to and engage with the tension of celebrating the wonder and beauty of nature in creation together with a need to lament the loss and vulnerability of the earth, people, creatures and environments.

From this emerged our theme '**Let the earth speak**'.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says: I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? 43:19a

Contributors are invited to submit a new work responding to one or more of these questions:

- What are you hearing? How are you listening?
- What is your response to the vulnerable earth, people, creatures, communities?
- What new thing are you being called to?
- Where do you see the love of the Creator, the hope of Christ and the new life of the Spirit?

The exhibition will run from **27th September – 7th October** at Brunswick Uniting Church. Opening night will be on **Friday 27th September** from 6:30pm. There will be a number of evening events during the week. Details to be advised.

#### Submissions

- Written submissions to be provided by Sunday 1st September
- Written descriptions of works to be provided by Sunday 15th September
- Delivery of works on Saturday 21st September (2-4pm) and Sunday 22nd September (11am-1pm)

Hosting an exhibition like this will be the work of many hands. There are lots of tasks big and small. If you are interested and want to get involved please contact Ann Soo, 0422 842 244, BUC Arts Co-convenor.

More details coming soon on the website and through our email distribution lists.

#### Mechanics of the Eye

All week, I look forward to the Sunday Art Class. I love the little intro to different artists at the start of each class. Priscilla showcases their unique style with one or two carefully chosen slides. It inspires some creative energy to flutter, the world of what might be possible stretches a little.

When the life model assumes his first pose, there's the now familiar sequence of events. A few moments of paralysis, panic even. I've no idea where or how to start. When at least a minute has gone by, I force myself to just put pencil to paper. It feels like I'm



### Let the earth speak

What new thing are you being called to?  
Listening and responding through the Arts  
27 September to 7 October, 2019

off a cliff. After some hesitant, fumbling strokes, the thoughts slowly subside as I focus on capturing angles and proportions. The pencil begins to move seemingly by itself.

All too soon the timer goes and the model straightens. I sigh and for the first time, turn and chat to the people seated near me. Bonded by our common experience, we offer up "Wasn't that a tough angle", "The time just flew" and other truths. If we look, with permission, at each others' work, there's no judgment. If anything, we are warmly encouraging.



It's no small thing to lead a group with a huge range of experience, skills and confidence. It's a testament to Priscilla's gift as a teacher that over the last few weeks, a miracle is unfolding. In her expert and supportive care, we're becoming more confident, our eyes more discerning and our drawings more closely resemble what we see. It's truly magical.

Janet Hogan



Joanne van Ravenswaaij

## Six Years Too Long

In the lead up to the **Love Makes a Way** action on **Tuesday 30th July** Andrea Alvis, Jamie Thom and Kirsty Brown from the LMAW group encouraged our congregation to create personal posters giving expression to what they had done in the six years while asylum seekers, many of whom have refugee status, remain in detention awaiting settlement. On Sunday 27th July we



either held up our own posters or those filled out by others in solidarity with the public action taken in the CBD. Faye Findlay created a beautiful and moving installation in our Tower Room Window.

Have a look at the window next time you are passing by and also check out the post on our [Facebook group](#).



## > The Shed Project



Nearly three years ago (October 2016) the worship committee started a conversation about how best to store the fabulous stage pieces designed by Wayne Matthews and constructed by him with the assistance of others. After navigating various procedures including Church Council and Synod approval and gaining a permit from Moreland Council work on our new sheds began on 26th June and exactly one month later, 26th July, they were complete. They've even been insulated with thanks to Wayne, Ray and Laurie.





A working bee on **Saturday 27th July**

saw a dedicated group of people relocating a whole variety of items. The north shed is being used mostly by Arts Access for the ArtStop program, the middle shed by BUC Arts mostly for the Olive Arts program and the south shed for bulk storage in particular the star of the show - the stage pieces.



It's already cosy in the south shed but that is totally okay because the initial goal has been achieved.



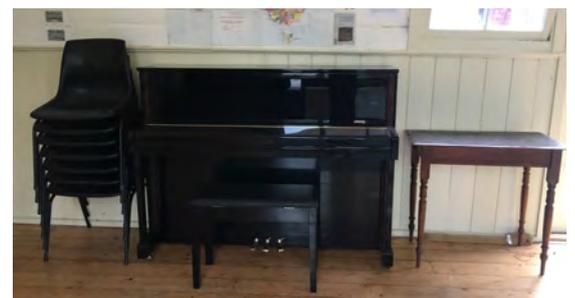
A fabulous new storage unit was offered to us by Wayne Matthews and after discussion with Youth Hall stakeholders the decision to purchase it was made. Delivery was not without its perils but all was well and the unit is now in position ready for storing art paper and other resources.

Many thanks to Ray Cameron, Wayne Matthews, Jamie Thom, Graham Lawrence, Helen Burnham, Ann Soo, Dave Hall, Ian Ferguson, Andrew Moorhouse, Abi Benham-Bannon and Peter Blair for such excellent collaboration on these wide-ranging tasks.

We also cleaned up the Tower Room and the Youth Hall and hope that these spaces remain largely uncluttered. Shelves have been installed in the galley space off the Youth Hall for storage of artworks. The Deaconess storeroom received a small amount of attention. Lots of art making resources have been relocated from the West End and cupboards have been cleared. A new book shelf has been installed in the Office giving Dave the opportunity to bring his resources on site and paradoxically making the space look bigger.

We have items ready to go to new homes and after more work is done in the West End there is likely to be more cupboards that need a new home. A fabulous new storage unit was offered to us by Wayne Matthews and after discussion with Youth Hall stakeholders the decision to purchase it was made. Delivery was not without its perils but all was well and the unit is now in position ready for storing art paper and other resources.

**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. See ?? for details of a special event on **Thursday 8th August**.

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.

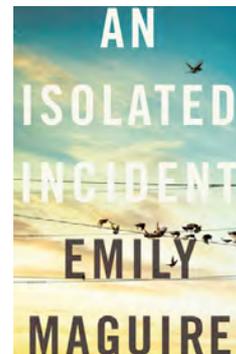
### Book Club at BUC

facilitated by Jeanette Acland

7.30 – 9 pm, **Wednesday 28th August 2019**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

An Isolated Incident by Emily Maguire was short listed for the 2017 Stella Prize. It is a compelling story that considers the part the media plays in sensationalising crime, the plight of those whose lives are forever changed by an act of violence, and community acceptance of violence against women. It is also a murder mystery that deftly transforms the genre, focusing on the family and friends of the victim rather than the crime itself, and tactically diminishing the perpetrator in a careful withdrawal from the sensational. The novel is a celebration of sisters: Bella, the murder victim, and her sister Chris are very different women, but they have a convincing and touching affinity.



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. **August activity** Join us on **Friday 16 August** to visit PMI (Pahran Mechanics Institute), 39 St Edmonds Road, Pahran. Arrive from 10.30 am. A Special History Showcase exhibiting a number of historical, family history and special interest societies from around Victoria.

For transport options and further information contact Helen Rowe 0423 09 813.

### 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 17th August**, 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

Our June meeting centred on a review of our progress towards goals that we had set earlier in the year. We celebrated **achievements and solid progress** on a number of goals, including:

- Setting goals for ourselves, and encouraging committees to set their own
- Dave Hall settling in well (with a 3 month check-in just ahead)
- Consulting with committees about reporting arrangements
- Developing effective partnerships, such as those with ArtStop (one of two Olive Way arts extensions), Fairfield UC (Youth Group) and Love Makes A Way
- Increasing the number of women in leadership roles (Congregational Chair, Ministry Team Supervisor)
- Merri Project (underway, with revised focus and timelines).

The review also helped us notice and make plans for **goals that need some attention**, including:

- Building up our cultural and ethnic diversity (task group established to follow up on last year's "Mainstream and Margins" workshop)
- Documenting a consolidated Privacy Policy (Shawn & Saide developing a draft)
- Ensuring we support the BUC Arts team (Shawn and Ann to meet)
- Finishing the "reporting" and "barriers to participation" projects

As always, we received reports that help keep us up to date on all the amazing things that are happening around BUC. Among others, we noted the terrific work Saide had done (and has continued to do) to ensure others can take up essential tasks

### Worship Committee

For opening worship at our July meeting Ian invited us to reflect on baptism as looked towards the baptism of Joshua Whitty on 21st July.

Reflecting on worship since our June meeting we noted:

- the privilege of hosting the artworks during Refugee Week and the insight these artworks gave us into hope and joy as we engaged with them on Refugee Sunday, 23rd June
- the opportunity to explore postures of prayer in our reflective service on 30th June - great timing after the worship workshop with Stephen Burns
- the usefulness of the Synod Sunday worship resources on 7th July and our gratitude to Janet Reus-Smit for presiding over Holy Communion
- the beautiful weaving of the prayers written during the Writing Prayers workshop (see p6) in worship on 14th July

while she and Christine are away this August and September. Thanks to the people who have volunteered to cover them too...additional volunteers always welcome!

We responded to a number of **requests and recommendations**, including:

- Approving a new external lights system to improve safety at the Student House
- Approving the purchase of an additional green waste bin, which can now include food waste (and relieve pressure on our own composting units)
- Establishing a new BUC Instagram account to help connect with young people (many of whom don't use FaceBook or email)
- Endorsing CYA's request to engage the kids and a local artist in painting murals on the yard-facing walls of the Ministry Team office
- Reconfirming that the Youth Hall can be decorated with youth-related displays

On the financial front, we noted that we are **below budget for income** from direct giving (Direct Debits via U.Ethical, and regular electronic transfers from members' bank accounts to ours). We're not sure why these should be lower than budgeted; possibly some people have forgotten to renew their commitments? Linda will make some announcements and provide other information about this vital part of our budget... and here's my request that you check your own direct giving arrangements!

Finally, we're looking forward to the upcoming **consultations on BUC's future missional priorities**, under the banner of the Merri Project. We hope that you'll be part of these conversations, regardless of your previous involvement at BUC.

Shawn Whelan, 22 June 2019

We discussed

- the Worship Workshop series which has exceeded our expectations with respect to participation and content, agreeing that there is a hunger in the congregation for this kind of conversation, see p6&7
- the upcoming BUC Arts Exhibition 'Let the Earth speak' - we have decided to shape a Seasons of Creation series around the exhibition, see Worship Calendar, p2
- preparations for Saide's three week LSL
- an update on the shed project to be completed by the end of July and the benefit this will have for tidier spaces throughout the property
- shortening the lectern, soon to be a reality
- plans for a service of Lament with the LGBTQI+ community
- engagement with First Nations people in our community



**30/6 Pentecost 3 Luke 9:51-62** Following on from our worship workshop with Stephen Burns, Natalie Sims and Ian invited the children to take up a number of postures that might help us to think about our relationship with God - arms raised in praise, kneeling or prostrating in humility, bowing with respect, open hands for receiving. We practiced keeping our arms raised as Natalie offered the prayers of adoration and confession.



Ian's sermon [The Posture of Discipleship](#) invited us to consider Jesus 'uncompromising posture' as described in Luke 19:51 'When the days drew near for him to be taken up Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem' and wondered if we too were 'up for taking on that posture of faith'. Then he compared Jesus stance to that of Israel Falou. Ian reminded us that 'It is above all for such marginalized outsiders that Jesus makes his journey, to bring them into the heart of God's love.' Ian explored for us Jesus saving stance and the way in which this inevitably leads to him provoking division as he moves the centre of belonging from the religious insiders to the marginalized outsiders. Ian reminded us that on this saving journey '... Christ sets his face towards imprisonment and death. Along this way he will lose his freedom and he will lose his life because he stands against the status quo, against the powers that be asserting the world transforming reign of God's love that gathers the marginalized.' Concluding Ian prayed 'Living Christ, by your Holy Spirit give us strength in our faith to follow you. Give us wisdom in our faith to discern your way. Give us grace in our faith to treat others as you treat all of us. Amen.'

After the sermon Ian invited us to move around the worship space in response to the questions 'What does it feel like to follow for you to Jesus right now? What is the posture of your faith today.' He offered us four places to do this:

- the Christ candle on a table by the door where we could raise our arms in praise, opening our hearts to receive from God
- around the baptism font where we might bow in respect and touch the water that is a sign of God's love for us in this place
- gathering at the table with open hands to give and receive as we do at communion
- by the cross, kneeling, prostrating or touch expressing whatever is deep in our hearts

We moved around the worship space in response to the calling of our hearts, engaging in these postures, giving expression to our faith. During Prayers of the People the children lit tapers with Ian praying for Christ's family in all the earth, for the world and for those in need. Later we celebrated Holy Communion around the table and around the whole worship space.



**7/7 Pentecost 4 Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126** On Synod Sunday we used a resource provided by the equipping Leaders for Mission Unit. This resource invited many voices to offer the prayers through the service and for the congregation to offer responses.

Dave Hall spoke with the children about scars asking who had one. He wondered if God has scars and if Jesus has scars. Dave reminded us that our scars are



part of who we are but not our whole story. He spoke of Isaiah telling the people that God was going to do a new thing, rivers of grace in the wilderness, the wild places, creating new and beautiful hope for the future.

Saide invited us to reflect on the words from the prophet Isaiah [I am about to do a new thing](#) using the resource provided for Synod Sunday in which Monica Melancthon offered theological input based on this passage and Psalm 126. Saide spoke of the suffering

of the Israelites and of the hope Isaiah seeks to offer them in their place of exile. She invited us to remember the stories that have shaped our own lives and community of faith in conversation with the people around us in the pews. Saide wondered how it is possible to not remember the many ways in which we and others around us are hurt and shamed as the Israelites were. She affirmed that we can and must remember, doing so in a way that brings hope *'as we work with God to bring about the new creation, the kingdom of heaven on earth, a kingdom shaped by love, justice and peace'*. Saide spoke of temptation and wilderness, Bohemian Rhapsody and the Live Aid concert and of examples from Isaiah of God creating a new thing. We reflected together about the new things happening in our community. Saide concluded speaking of this work being done in community, work which is *shaped by grace, the work of the Holy Spirit, God's grace pouring down and through us each and every day, a river in the desert of the shallow emptiness of corrupted power, empowering us, ordinary everyday people to be the new thing, to live the new thing into being.'* And finally, quoting Monica, reminded us that *For Christians, God becoming human in Jesus Christ was and continues to be the most 'new thing'.*



Janet Reus-Smit presided over our celebration of Holy Communion as we gathered around the whole worship space to receive the bread and juice.



**14/7 Pentecost 5 Luke 10:25-37, Deuteronomy 6:1-9** Throughout worship we listened as people who attended the Writing Prayers workshop (see p4) offered the prayers they had written throughout the service, a truly beautiful weaving through the liturgy.



Ian explored the story of the Good Samaritan with the children. They spoke about neighbours and who Jesus thinks our neighbour is. Ian took the children through the story along a path of our multi-purpose cushions. Ian spoke of the compassion of the Samaritan and how this person who we wouldn't expect to help was the neighbour to the man who was beaten by the robbers.

Opening his sermon [Being a Good Samaritan](#) Ian affirmed that this is the story of a violent crime and invited us to listen to the voices of some violent criminals in the two episodes from the podcast Ear Hustle. He reminded us that the Good Samaritan is, in this story, *the outsider, the enemy, the other*. He introduced us to Sarah Crusan who features in the podcast of her journey from convicted murderer to restorative justice worker, her role as a Good Samaritan to the imprisoned men. In the podcasts we listened as one man reflected on the possibility of a release date and whether or not he deserved freedom. We listened to another reflecting on his life and what he would say to others in his situation. Sarah reflecting back to him and commented on what he had not said in relation to the impact his actions had on his victims. Ian commented *'A very damaged and damaging man is beside the way. He is too hard for our world to deal with, too hard for the priests and the Levites, the insiders to civilised society who don't want to get blood on their hands.'* He wondered if there was any way out for this man - a victim but one who has also done great evil. He concluded *'Jesus asked 'which of these do you think was a neighbour to the man by the roadside? The lawyer replied 'the one who showed him mercy'. Jesus said 'go and do likewise'. Amen'*

**21/7 Pentecost 6 Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:21-22** Ian invited the children to come forward to prepare for Joshua's baptism. Dave joined them as well to remind us of two words we had learnt on Pentecost Sunday in the Eastern Anmatyerre language - marre - home, Mgarde - God. Dave was delighted that his aboriginal mother and sister Eileen and Tanya Bird were with us for worship. Ian commented that these words were both ordinary and special. He commented that in baptism God is making a home for Joshua, a home of love. See Worship News, pages 5&6 for photos and the story of Joshua's baptism.



Ian departed from the lectionary on this Sunday to reflect on [Baptism, Identity, Temptation and Star Wars](#) He introduced us to Rey, the new Star Wars hero sharing the questions the movie offers us in relation to her identity. He reminded us of the booming Darth Vader like voice declaring Jesus' identity at his baptism and invited us to reflect on our own identity *'What makes you who you are?'*. Ian showed us Rey's baptism scene (another in his vast collection of movie baptisms) in which her longing for identity is evident. Ian

spoke of the testing which followed the revelation of Jesus identity - *'not the son of Joseph, but the son of God'*. He reflected on Rey's testing and her longing to have a place. He spoke of his own family of birth who nurtured him in his faith saying *'But it is not because of my family of birth that I am beloved of God, that you are beloved of God. It is by grace. Simply because I am who I am. Because you are who you are. We are loved. Baptism is an expression of this grace.'* Concluding Ian spoke of Rey resisting temptation and instead finding her place in *'another community of belonging, the heavily arm and multicultural Rebel Alliance or Resistance'*. He commented that in this Rey is like Jesus who gathered a family of faith around. And finally Ian affirmed Joshua's baptism into this family and looked forward to a time when Joshua may affirm his baptism through confirmation. To all of us he said *'Will you claim your identity as a beloved child of God and love as you have been loved? Amen.'*



**28/7 Pentecost 7 Luke 11:1-13, Psalm 138** See Merri Project News, p3, for stories about this service.

**Saide Cameron**

## The Irregular BUC Finance Crossword

Yes, most if not ALL of these  
have some impact on Finance!

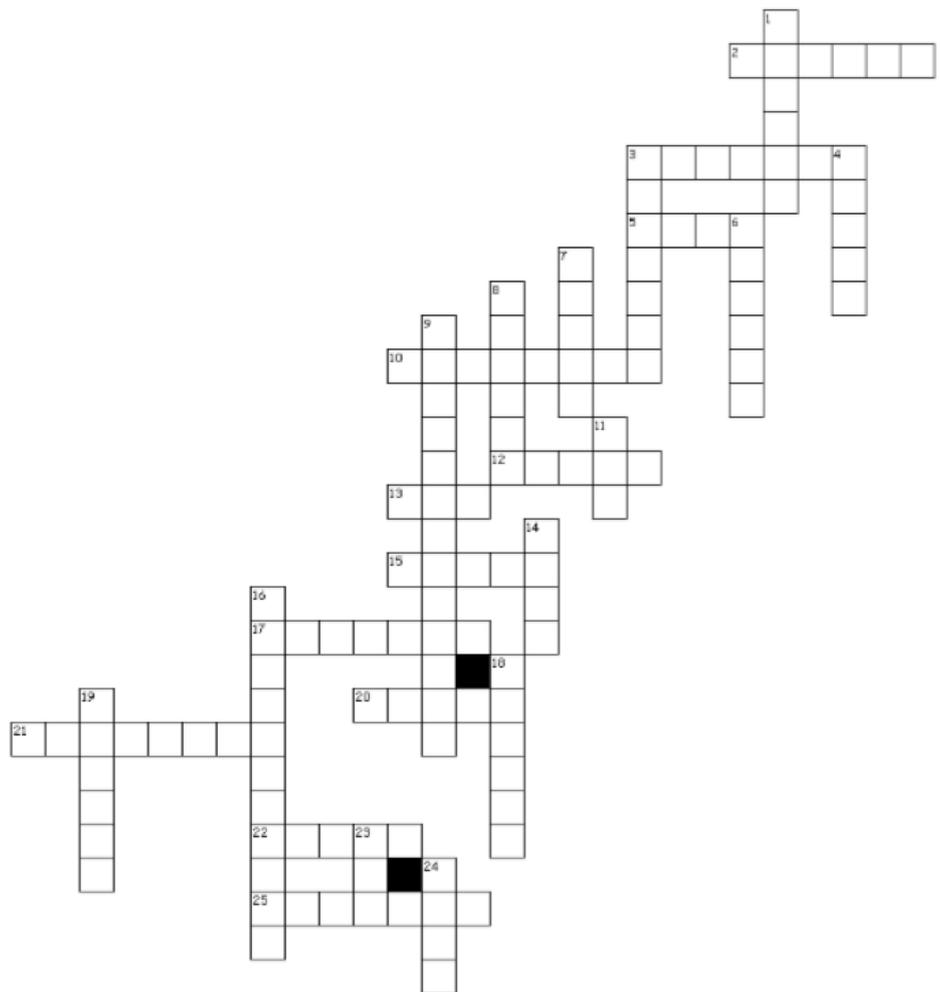
"Kids, **Don't** Try This At Home"

### Across

2. Native animal which likes to live in ceilings, including our hall (6)
3. An activity at Camp which involves bows and arrows (7)
5. Annual church community weekend near Creswick (4)
10. The stringed instrument with which Maggie can make Persian music (8)
12. Special but no cost substance used at baptisms, which we like to flick over the adults (5)
13. How we heat the Big Hall (3)
15. Name of street next to church (4)
17. Another name for grasshoppers, which swam and eat crops (7)
20. Dan B's wonderful voice is this type, which sounds like 2 \$5 notes (8)
21. Another name for the big candle which is brought into worship (3,5)
22. The stringed instrument played by Colin Hunter that has voice-like qualities (5)
25. Another name for the Bible (3,4)

### Down

1. Animal hired with other Brunswick churches for Palm Sunday service (6)
3. The last, and funniest, activity at Camp (7)
4. Our special bright, warm and sunny space, the ... Hall (5)
6. Traditionally the colour Lent; no chocolate! (6)
7. The collection of 66 books, some quite strange, which is brought into worship (5)
8. Scottish Saint after whom the church was originally named (6)



9. The special place from which we get the baptism water (4,5,6)
11. One of the colours of Pentecost (3)
14. Scottish name for 'church' (4)
16. How we heat the Youth Hall (11)
18. A colour of Pentecost other than red (6)
19. A sun-flower like colour of Pentecost (6)
23. This crossword's subtitle relies on 'The ... of Inter-Generational Perversity' for its effect (3)
24. The percussion instrument Al Hunter uses for great rhythms (4)

## Finance Committee

### Offerings

There has been a 'blip' in the offerings early winter 2019, as in the 6 Months graph below.

This has been mostly due to Direct Credits not maintaining momentum. Members are asked to check their direct credits (aka Automatic Payments) to see if they have passed any termination date. If you wish to set up a Direct Credit, the BUC bank account is called "Uniting Church Brunswick" at the ANZ Brunswick branch, with BSB 013236 and account 008687863. Could you please put "Offering" in the description field, to enable correct allocation.

OFFERINGS 2019 AS AT 30/06/2019  
DIRECT DEBITS, DIRECT CREDITS, OPEN PLATE AND ENVELOPES



For any detail behind actual and budget data, please look at the BUC website, member-only area, and/or ask a Finance Committee member (Emanuel Datt, Naomi David, Mal Rowe, Linda Wannan) or Council Chair Shawn Whelan.

## Property Committee

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

- The sheds are completed, finalised Friday 26th July. Followed by a working bee organised by Saide, big thanks, to move items into the shed(s) and to reorganise. Insulation was installed in the shed walls by Wayne Matthews, Laurie Bonney and Ray.
- Slate tile was reinstated on the church roof.
- Hall west end door has been painted in the appropriate color.
- Latches on two cupboards in the church have been repaired/replaced.
- First Aid kit replacement items have been placed into the Olive Way and Hall kitchen first aid kits.
- The cabinet for the defibrillator (AED), EpiPens and Ventolin spacer has been installed in the Hall.
- The night time lighting on the south side of the youth hall has been replaced, ensuring adequate lighting for the area, including bike racks.
- Church carpet has been steam cleaned.
- Insulation has been installed on the hot water unit.
- The cleaner's cupboard has been modified to accommodate two separate cleaning companies utilising the space.
- Smoke detectors in the student house have been replaced.
- A sump pump has been replaced. Who knew we had one?



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

- The emergency lighting in the church requires replacement due to failing the run-down test.
- Tidy up any outstanding shed issues.
- The external lighting at the student house is being updated for security reasons.
- 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 reinstated 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.
- 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.
- An additional Green Waste bin is being organised by Abi with the Moreland City Council.

## > Happy Birthday

Nick Allan, Rosemary Brown, William Coulson-Burke, Hannah Denison, Ian Ferguson, Kristin Flint, Jeremy Hardman, Ingrid Hollis, Christine Hornby, Chelsea Hunter, Bridget McNamara, Kilian McNamara, Clancy Moore, Andrew Moorhouse, Meg Moorhouse, Caitlin Mullen-Beagley, Genevieve Mullen, Kirsten Parris, Philip Potter, Jan Sebastian, Monty Winkler



## > Preaching Plan

August 4	Julian Hamilton with Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>	September 1	Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>	September 29	Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>
August 11	Colin Hunter	September 8	Ian Ferguson	October 6	Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>
August 18	Ian Ferguson	September 15	Ian Ferguson	October 13	Ian Ferguson
August 25	Ian Ferguson	September 22	Ian Ferguson	October 20	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
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
8/9	Pent 13	Jer 18:1-11	Ps 139:1-6, 13-18	Phlm 1-21	Lk 14:25-33	G
15/9	Pent 14	Jer 4:11-12, 22-28	Ps 14	1 Tim 1:12-17	Lk 15:1-10	G
22/9	Pent 15	Jer 8:18-9:1	Ps 79:1-9	1 Tim 2:1-7	Lk 16:1-13	G
29/9	Pent 19	Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15	Ps 91:1-6, 14-16	1 Tim 6:6-19	Lk 16:19-31	G

## August Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 – Julian Hamilton <b>HC</b> Bring a plate to share MT  4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Art Stop 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts  6:00 – Mulling 7:30 – Samuel Wells visit		10:00 – Olive Pesto
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 – Colin Hunter  5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation  7:30 – Church Council	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Art Stop 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts  7:30 – JAM C’tee	10:30 – Out & About  7:30 – Youth Group	10:00 – Food Co-op
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:15 – Pageant planning  5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Art Stop 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:45 – Pastoral Care C’tee  5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church		10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation  7:30 – Property C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Art Stop 12:00 – Community Dinner  7:30 – Book Group	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts	7:30 – Youth Group	
September 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 – Ian Ferguson Bring a plate to share MT  4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Art Stop 12:00 – Community Dinner  7:30 – Worship C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts		2:30 – Coffee  ** - Mulling FUNdraiser