

THE OLIVE BRANCH

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

> Meditation

Creation in our days - a prayerful reflection for the season of Creation

God of Sabbath rest and rejoicing:

On the first day of creation
you call out light.

On the second day
you sing the sky.

On the third
you invite land from the waters,
greening it with plants and trees,
fruits and seeds.

On the fourth day
you sigh the sun, moon and stars.

On the fifth day
you laugh life into air and sea,
and on the sixth,
announce animals on land,
and humankind in your image.

On the seventh day
you rest with silent delight
in the goodness of reverberating love.

On the first day of the new creation
you sing a symphony
into a discordant world,
harmonising freedom and faith,
liberation and reconciliation,
peace, justice, and joy.

You sing,
and Jesus Christ comes dancing from death.

So move us
in harmony with wisdom's way,
to the rhythm of hope,
until we rest in you,
laughing, singing and sighing our love.

In our days, give the sparkle of eternal light,
lift our souls and open them like the sky,
make our lives grow green, bearing fruits of faith,
and our voices echo your creative love.

Ian Ferguson



> 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 **September and October** 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.

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. Contact Ian Ferguson if you would like to participate, 0438 547 842

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> Culture of Safety

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

If any member of the congregation – child or adult - has concerns about the safety of our children, particularly in relation to child sexual abuse, or the welfare of vulnerable adults, you may report this in confidence so that support can be provided. You may speak to Helen Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Culture of Safety Contact Person appointed by Church Council. Brunswick Uniting Church has a process for following up any concerns raised. Please contact Helen in person or by telephone at 0423 009 813

> Happy Birthday

Oscar Batch, Sheila Calwell, Vilma Collard, Zac Coverdale, Bruce Findlay, Scott Findlay, Patrick Hall, Peter Hornby, Jenny Hunter, Dave Kruse, Amanda Lees, Hamish Macrae, Julie McKinnon, Archie Moore, Jill Moorhouse, Joshua Mullen, Stephen Mullen, Gwen Rogers, Cathryn Goode, Felix Tall, Nathan Watson Kruse

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, p7, for more information.



Blessing of the Bikes

Ride (or walk) to worship if you can on **20th October** for our annual [Blessing of the Bikes](#). We gather out on the steps after worship to have our non-motorised wheeled transport blessed. This is one small way of showing our care and respect for the environment.



Ian on leave

Ian will be on leave from 27th October to 5th November.

27th October - We will welcome **Kirsten Parris**, member of our congregation and ecologist with a passion for frogs, as our preacher.

3rd November - We will welcome **Fiona Bottcher**, member of our congregation and candidate for the Ministry of Deacon as our preacher and **Janet Reus-Smit**, member of our congregation and retired minister, to preside over Holy Communion.



> Pastoral Care News

Hospitality

Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC) continues to experience a steady stream of visitors and newcomers to our Church. The Hospitality team enjoys linking the newcomers to activities which interest them and to congregation members involved in these activities or who are just happy to chat and get to know the newcomers. One of our newcomers from the past, Clare Keogh, has joined the pastoral care Hospitality Team and was welcomed with open arms.

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, Clare Keogh and Michael Rigby.

Jane Allardice

Compassion

The Compassion Ministry responded to needs of the congregation in August in a variety of ways and continued with their longer term implementation of the "Circle of Friends" program. The Prayer group also continued to pray daily for those who have requested it. We believe that God knows the innermost workings of our hearts. If you wish to be included and prayed for or wish to join in praying, please just telephone or email (see compassion team names below). Each Friday the Prayer group will be emailed the names of those participating. If you know of someone who may need prayer please feel free to ask them if this would be helpful and forward their name to us.

We would invite anyone who wishes to receive assistance of any kind, or to be included in the Prayer Group (as prayed for or as a pray-er) to please contact Ian Ferguson, Leanne Salau, Dani Chamberlain, Gwen Arnold or Glenice Cook.

Jane Allardice

Community

There are so many different ways to be in community at BUC from worshipping on Sunday, to being on a committee, supporting the SMP program, being on the Sunday rosters, participating in a D&E series, helping out at a working bee, enjoying a Sunday lunch and participating in social, FUNdraising, regular and special events. See Regular Events, p10.

Stay on after worship for lunch ...

- **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 by 8th September 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 refreshing fresh fruit platters.

Also coming up ...

7th September - Mulling [Movie Night FUNdraising event](#)



15th September - [Mental Heath Kit for congregations Launch](#)

1.30pm, at Brunswick Uniting Church

You are invited to the launch of the Mental Health Kit for Congregations to be launched by Professor Allan Fells AO, former Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and now a Commissioner on the Victorian Royal Commission into Mental Health.



RSVP: By 10 September to assist with catering ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au or 9340 8815

Wednesday 25 September

- [Visit to the Melbourne Tram Museum](#), . Open 11 am - 3 pm. Members of the Out and About Group at BUC are meeting there at 11 am. Please join us.



- What's to see and do? Climb into very old heritage trams, Ding! Ding! the tram bells, pretend you are a conductor, experience public transport of years gone by. There's a fleet of 20 Heritage trams and a Special visual exhibition of the Art Trams from 1978-2018.
- Location - Melbourne Tram Museum, 8 Wallen Road, Hawthorn. The museum entrance is on the City (western) end of the depot building. For parking and public transport information follow this link - <http://www.hawthorntramdepot.org.au/news/20190805.htm>
- Admission is by gold coin donation. Accessible paths and areas but with some limitations. Sorry no food outlet on the premises. Children will need to be accompanied by their parent or carer. Something special during the school holidays! Invite your grandchildren, nieces and nephews, friends, neighbours and school friends. This is a public event.

For more information contact Helen Rowe, 0423 09 813

13th October - [Working Bee](#)

- The Property Committee is hosting the third working bee for the year to ensure that our property is kept tidy and well maintained.
- Join us after worship to have some fun working together.
- Contact James Clough, 0424 054 610, Andrew Moorhouse, 0401 696 112, Ray Cameron, 0407 883 654 to offer your assistance
- See previous page for lunch details.

> JAM News (part 1)

BUC Climate Action Group

The Justice and Mission group (JAM) is inviting members of the congregation to join and help lead a Climate Action Group.

The key purpose of this group will be to:

- Assist existing groups within BUC to provide a coordinated approach to actions involving climate change.
- Inform the congregation about climate change actions within the congregation and the wider community and encourage involvement in these actions.
- Help the congregation to consider **declaring a Climate Emergency**. A significant number of local organizations

27th September to 7th October - BUC Arts biennial exhibition '[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

What new thing are you being called to?

Listening and responding through the Arts

Save these dates

- Launch Event - **27th September**, 7-9:30pm
- Performance Night - **4th October**, 7-9:30pm
- [And the Forest Prayed CD launch](#) - **5th October**, 3-5pm
We are so delighted that this launch of Maggie Somerville's CD is happening during the exhibition week and have invited Maggie to join the program, an invitation which she joyfully accepted. Please plan to come along and support Maggie.



20th October - [Blessing of the Bikes](#)

- After worship we gather on the steps to have our non-motorized wheeled transport bless (and yes pushers, prams, strollers, scooters are all eligible). Invite friends, family and neighbours to come along for the blessing.
- The BUC Cycle group is hosting a regular ride to follow the blessing. Set aside a couple of hours to cycle somewhere along one of Melbourne's bike tracks. Bring picnic food to share along the way. A stop off for ice cream and/or coffee is also 'on the cards!' Contact Graham Lawrence, 0408 617 416 for more information.

around the world have already done this in the absence of national political leadership. This declaration needs to be considered seriously and would involve actions by the congregation as a whole and individual members. It is hoped that the congregation might vote on this declaration at its Congregational Meeting on 24 November.

JAM would particularly welcome interest from those who will suffer the most in the future from this generation's lack of action.

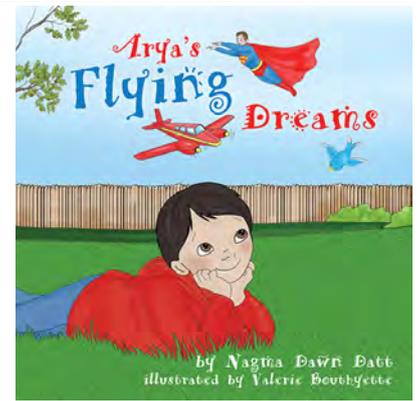
If you are interested please contact **Richard Arnold** on richarn50@gmail.com or mobile 0407796429

> 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 (BUC Playgroup)

The next Olive Pips playgroup gathers on Saturday 31 August from 9:30am to 11:30am at the church. Anyone with infants/pre-schoolers very welcome. We will celebrate Nagma Dawn's new book, Arya's Flying Dreams.



Sunday Morning Program (SMP)



The dreary office wall has been turned in to a vibrant splash of colour – a river of grace. Huge thanks to Ann Soo and mural artist Graeme Galloway for leading this project. We will have one more Sunday finishing off the wall (September 22).



The younger and middle group is about to begin three Sundays creating mosaic stones with BUC Artist and Mosaic specialist, Louise Marson.



Both the mural wall and the mosaics will be part of the BUC Art Exhibition "Let the Earth Speak."



Youth Group

every second Friday night

Josh Bodenstaff led the youth group on an excellent Scavenger Hunt along Sydney Road a few Friday nights back. A dozen teens then took the challenge with North Walls Rockclimbing Centre just up the road. MasterChef Pizza Making is coming up on Friday 30 August, and there's the chance to attend the Sonder Youth Camp (Fri 20 to Sun 22 Sep).

The Term 4 plans are coming together nicely, when it's opened up to Grade 6'ers to get a taste.



The older group will have deeper discussion, including with the well-travelled Deb Blackmore.

Adult volunteers are always needed – it's not a huge commitment – just once or twice a Term.

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

Student House

Jean Saker has moved in 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). She has moved to Melbourne to complete her Law articles, and has had a long involvement with Mareeba Uniting Church.

Sasha McGuigan will be moving in at the start of next year.

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. The film night fundraiser should be fantastic – Bohemian Rhapsody on **Saturday 7th September** from 7pm.



Overseas wisdom

My ministry has really benefitted from the visit of three overseas guests in the past month: Julian Hamilton, Samuel Wells and Andrew Root. I am still digesting what all of them have had to say, and reading more of their work and wisdom.

I'll be overseas from September 12 to 23.

Grace and peace

Dave Hall Pastor: Children, Youth and Young Adults

0417 310 128, davebhall1373@gmail.com

> JAM News (part 2)

From the committee

Olive Way

Richard Arnold and Peter Blair have identified ten goals to help make the Olive Way even more effective as a place of welcome and hospitality for all who come.

The Olive Way will operate from the main hall using the large kitchen for one month starting in January in line with recommendations made in 2018 to address safety and congestion concerns identified in the current space.

Peter Blair will be on leave from 20th September to 12th October. Peter Murphy, our regular Wednesday lunch chef, will act in his place with the Olive Way being open on Wednesday and Thursday only during this period.

The possibility of operating a cooking club is being discussed with St. Ambrose Catholic Church

The Property Committee is working to provide a list of tasks for volunteers wishing to work in the gardens on the church property.

BUC Arts

Ann Soo and Priscilla Manthey provided a review of the recent very successful 'Mechanics of the Eye' drawing classes.

Planning and preparation for the upcoming exhibition are progressing well.

The ArtStop program is operating on Wednesdays until mid October. During this time the Olive Arts Collective is operating on Thursdays. Both programs are well attended and are making excellent use of the new storage facilities.

Saide Cameron prepared a comprehensive set of role descriptions for the BUC Arts community. These will be reviewed and discussed at our September meeting.

FUNdraising

We are delighted that the Mulling group is hosting the Movie FUNdraising event on 7th September. Funds raised will support the Olive Arts Collective and Uniting Harrison. See details on the [BUC Facebook group page](#).

Planning is underway for FUNdraising for the Christmas Bowl. More information next month.

Treaty Community Conversation

Members of the committee attended a Treaty Community Conversation on 15th August. See Leanne Salau's story on p7.

Declaring a Climate Emergency

We received an invitation received from Gavin Mountjoy (Westgate Baptist) to join other faith communities in declaring a Climate Emergency (and the proposed actions that come with it).

See Richard Arnold's invitation to join an action group on climate change on p4.

We are exploring the possibility of hanging a banner on our fence in support of the Climate Emergency Strike being held on 20th September.

Public Housing

We also received a letter from Barbara Knowles expressing concern over the closure and demolition of Gronn Place, Everett St. which will affect a number of people in our congregation as well as causing environmental degradation. We are exploring ways of responding to the letter and joining our voice to this expression of concern.

BUC Arts



27th September to 7th October - BUC Arts biennial exhibition
'[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

*What new thing are you being called to?
Listening and responding through the Arts*

The BUC Arts committee together with the Justice & Mission committee is delighted to invite you to join us for a Visual Arts Exhibition and program of events at Brunswick UC

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?

Important dates

- Notification of intent to submit due - **1st September**
- Written descriptions - **15th September**
- Delivery of works - **21st & 22nd September**
- Launch Event - **27th September**, 7-9pm
- Performance Night - **4th October**, 7-9pm
- [And the Forest Prayed CD launch](#) - **5th October**, 3-5pm

Want to help, volunteer or find out more?

Please contact Ann Soo with your offers and questions,
0422 842 244

Saide Cameron

Mechanics of the Eye

The Mechanics of the Eye workshop ran over six weeks in July and August in the west end of the church hall from 12noon to 2pm. Ann Soo organised all the practical details and communications while Priscilla Manthey offered her skill and experience in guiding the drawing including a power point presentation about master artists to commence each session (20 minutes). The workshops took a break for one week due to the Merri Street consultation.

The sessions were well attended with a consistent number of fourteen people each week. There was expression of interest from the group to continue staying together as a drawing community with Priscilla's guidance. This led to a 'round table' discussion that exuded enthusiasm yet recognition that an extension would need to be considered in the light of other missional activities of the church community.

Ann Soo

Treaty Conversation

I recently attended a conversation on Treaty held in Moreland.

A treaty is the best mechanism to achieve self-determination for Victoria's Aboriginal community and will give them a legally recognized voice for the first time.

Research has shown that First Nations peoples that have achieved self-determination experience better outcomes in health, employment, economic development, education, housing and justice.

It is important for us to realize that there will be various treaties. Each Treaty will be different as each Traditional Owner group will negotiate its own treaty with the Victorian Government highlighting its own priorities.

These treaties could acknowledge past wrongs and provide reparations from past injustices; recognize or provide better protection for specific Aboriginal rights: provide a basis for self-government and structures for decision making, allocate resources.

Treaty won't involve negotiations over ownership of private land.

Aboriginal people in Victoria have never ceded sovereignty and have long called for Treaty with government. Victoria has progressed further than any other state in this process.

It is a very exciting and challenging time as in September/October the election of the 33 representatives who will make up the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria will be held. All Aboriginal Victorians are able to vote. The Assembly will work with the Victorian government to establish 'ground rules' for Treaty negotiations, including who can negotiate and what is up for negotiation.

Once the ground rules are established, negotiations of treaties with various Traditional Owner groups can start.

There are many different views about the development of a Treaty and the consultation process within the Victorian Aboriginal community.

Treaty is important for non-Aboriginal Victorians.

A Treaty will lay solid foundations on which Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians can build stronger relationships based on respect and a shared understanding of our history.

A Treaty is likely to result in improvements in health, education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians. All basic rights and outcomes I believe should be happening.

As the first state in Australia to negotiate a Treaty, as Victorians we can be proud of this effort to build a fairer and more just society.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders represent just 2% of the Victorian voting public and the Treaty doesn't yet have bipartisan support. That's why it is important for the non-Aboriginal community to demonstrate their support for Treaty to our political leaders.

It's important to be aware that each Traditional Owner group will express different needs and priorities and practices. This means that showing respect and support for First Peoples will look different depending on where you live.

Olive Way

New partnerships are emerging at Olive Way. It was through a fairly fortuitous encounter last week that I had the opportunity to meet a staff member, Michael, from Jesuit Social Services who happened to be walking past the building and introduced himself to me. As it turned out he had popped by many other times but his work schedule meant he had not managed to coincide with our opening hours.



Michael is a staff member at the Ecological Justice Hub at the back of the Saxon St premises. Part of his role is to oversee the permaculture garden. Quite often, he said, they have an excess of freshly grown fruit and vegetables and not enough people to give it to, so after hearing about our community lunches he had the idea to see if we could use them. He suggested a weekly delivery of seasonal vegetable boxes, that can be used to supplement our community lunches.



met with Michael at the Saxon St premises where I was given a tour of the facilities and heard about the different programmes they offer. There are extensive community gardens, a woodwork shop, training facilities, and much more. They have a great set up over there and there are many possible ways that we can work together, however, we have kept it to the vegetable boxes for now with the aim of exploring further partnerships after my return from the UK in September/October.



We received our first delivery of vegetables on Tuesday this week. Peter Murphy creatively fashioned it into an amazing salad for our weekly lunch.

This is the kind of thing I have working towards for some time in Olive Way as it provides new opportunities for our guests to move beyond the hand out. It reminds us that we are but one of many groups that reach out to those facing hardship in the area, because when it comes to helping the vulnerable and disadvantaged we're all in this together.

Peter Blair, Olive Way Pastor

One of the speakers said to us that the best thing you white fella's can do to support Treaty is become informed!

Ways non-Aboriginal people can support Treaty

Talk to your family, friends and work colleagues about Treaty and what it means – do your bit to dispel any myths.

Talk to Reconciliation Victoria about holding a Local Treaty conversation to help inform your community – be sure to respect the diversity of views in your local Aboriginal community.

Let political leaders know how important Treaty is by contacting your State MP.

I think it is a very challenging, exciting and interesting time for us as Victorians. I encourage you to become informed and pray for our 33 indigenous sister and brothers who are making history by representing their people in negotiating Treaty.

Please talk to me if you have any questions. No guarantee that I will be able to answer them.

Leanne Salau

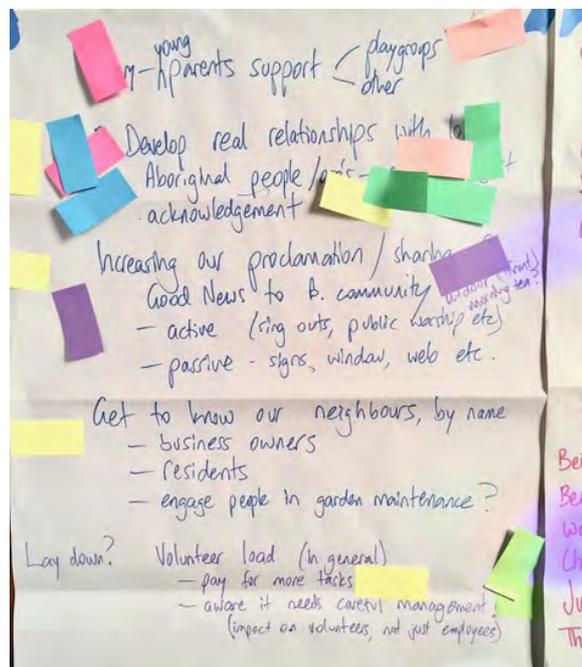
> Merri Project Update

On 28 July, about 40 members of BUC gathered to consider our current and future missional goals. Small bursts of input were followed by longer discussions in small groups. Detailed notes from the session are available on the Merri Project page of our website, and we encourage you to read them. The discussions reflected a strong continuing commitment to our existing missional activities, together with:

- significant interest in housing/homelessness/shelter
- some questions about the Student House program
- significant interest in sharing the load, pastoral care, building relationships etc.

We will continue to explore how BUC can best participate in God's mission at our next congregational forum: **Sunday 22 September**. Please come join us, whether or not you attended the first session! Note that child care will be provided, as well as lunch. See the website for details and updates.

Shawn Whelan, for the Merri Project Steering Group
(Amelia, Kirsty, Linda, Meg & Mikul)



> Presbytery News

In the days leading up to **Saturday, 17th August**, Jamie Thom and I skip-read our way through a mountain of papers in preparation for Presbytery-in-Council, including an 87 page draft Policy Manual. Fortunately for our sanity and the health and welfare of the Wider Church, the papers, while necessary, didn't accurately reflect the meeting's content. We dealt with most of that in about fifteen minutes, and the rest of the meeting concerned much more interesting stuff. Here are the highlights (not in order of importance).

We heard presentations from various people/groups from both within and outside the Presbytery. Three people from the leadership of Uniting, the Uniting Church's combined Agencies, spoke first. Silvia Alberti spoke about Uniting's vision and current priorities, including its focus on the housing crisis and in particular the many children affected by this, and Joanna Leece gave a snapshot of Uniting's activities within our Presbytery. They emphasised that Uniting is part of the Uniting Church – while many agencies have become distanced from congregational life, Uniting arose out of congregational mission and is now keen to rebuild and create new relationships with congregations. Lisa Stewart, our contact in the Mission Division, urged congregations to connect with Uniting if we have ideas or to seek resources for mission projects. We also heard from April Kailahi, who works on Interfaith Community Development with the Synod equipping Leadership for Mission (eLM) unit, about her work with Muslim women who have experienced violence in the public sphere. Finally, Chris Machar told us about establishing a UC faith community in a new suburb, Armstrong Creek. Since getting started in 2015 by a team of non-residents, the community is finding a way of being church centred on a range of social and worship small group activities rather than traditional Sunday worship, and is now led mostly by residents.

The best part of the day was presented by the Ministry Formation Committee, when we heard from three people

seeking to become Ministers in the Uniting Church. Firstly, Karen Ellen had completed a Period of Discernment and we voted to send her name to the Synod Selection Conference. Actually, this was her second PoD; she was affirmed in 2001 but decided not to pursue candidacy at the time. Instead, she worked as a hospital chaplain for years before returning to lay supply ministry. During this 'slow journey of becoming', she said she learnt that she was capable. Then she felt God telling her rather insistently that she 'can do more!' Secondly, Yoo Mi Park and Brunswick's own Fiona Bottcher were presented as exit candidates. Yoo Mi said her candidacy could be summarised by the Korean words 'Man-nam' (meeting) and 'Gi-Do' (prayer). Her theological studies helped her to meet God in a new way, truly 'meeting' each other relies on the Holy Spirit, and prayer helps us to find the way. (She made a clever play on words using Korean writing which I can't replicate!) Yoo Mi is passionate about intercultural and intergenerational ministry. Fi described herself as 'a lapsed atheist with an engineering degree' and remarked that studying engineering in no way prepared her for studying theology. She described a process of 'deconstruction' which broke down her initial impressions of what being a minister would look like, ultimately grounding her in the understanding that God was not calling her to greatness but to presence in the 'ordinary' moments – to paying attention to what God is doing right now. She said she longs to go out and hear the 'voices from the margins', those who need to hear that God's love is with them right there. **We approved Yoo Mi's ordination as a Minister of the Word, and Fi's ordination to the Ministry of Deacon.**

The following day, members of Presbytery met again with St Alban's UC to celebrate Trang Vo's ordination as Minister of the Word. She is the first Vietnamese woman ordained in our Synod and it was a joy to be there – an excellent conclusion to a Presbytery-filled weekend.

Kate Scull

> 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.

Our next ride will follow [Blessing of the Bikes](#) on **20th October**.

See page 4 or for more information 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

Come along & join us on the **first Sunday** of every month, from 4pm-6pm in the hall. Contact Natalie Sims or Shawn Whelan, ph. 9495 6120, or email sacred_harp@yahoo.com.au

Table Church

We gather to share a simple meal of soup & bread and dessert on **Sunday evenings**, (6-7:30pm), shaped by a liturgy that invites us to reflect on the week that has passed and to pray for each other. The shape of the evening is informal and low-stress.

We are meeting on the **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.

Please note that from 20th September to 12th October the Olive Way will not be open on Tuesdays.

- 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 25th September 2019**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

The Miniaturist is the 2014 debut novel of English actress and author Jessie Burton and is set in 17thC Amsterdam.

On an autumn day in 1686, 18-year-old Nella Oortman knocks at the door of a grand house in Amsterdam. She has come from the country to begin life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt, but is met by his sharp-tongued sister, Marin. Only later does Johannes appear and present her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in unexpected ways. Nella is at first mystified by the closed world of the Brandt household, but as she uncovers its secrets she realises the escalating dangers that await them all. Only one person seems to see the fate that awaits them. Is the miniaturist the key to their salvation . . . or the architect of their destruction?

If you are interested please contact:

Faye: 9379 1317 faye.findlay18@gmail.com or

Christine: 9386 8919 christine@hornby.id.au



Out and About Group

Out and About is a social group for older, active women and men. **September activity** will be a very special all age school holiday activity - a [Visit to the Melbourne Tram Museum](#) in Hawthorn. See p4 for all the details. For 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. Please note - in September we will attend the launch of Maggie Somerville's CD - see p4. 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 21st September**, 10 am - 12 noon. Members are reminded to plan their shopping list and label containers before arriving at Distribution Day. Scales will be available on the day to weigh in empty containers. Due to our increase in numbers we are closed to new members until further notice. Further information from Helen 0423 009 813.

> Reports

Church Council

Challenging Behaviours

This month Church Council has given some thought to how we respond to challenging behaviours in worship and in the wider life of our community.

As a church, we have a goal of being welcoming and inclusive community. That is partly the purpose of the Olive Way, and at work in our intention of being a worshipping community that has its doors open to all.

We are committed to being a safe community, in which all of our members can participate in worship and the broader activities of the church without anxiety or concern for safety.

In the last few years we developed some policies and procedures around challenging behaviours, specifically related to smoking and rough-sleeping around the church. We are now moving toward developing some specific policies around responding to challenging behaviours in worship and other spaces like the Sunday Morning Program and morning tea.

Part of being a safe church is creating confidence and reassurance among all the members of our community-of-communities that there are policies and strategies in place to respond to challenging behaviour concerns in a caring and deliberate way. More to come on this in future months.

Other News

We are continuing to oversee the management and appointment of staff to perform tasks in the Finance space, as well as support the Merri St consultation process.

The Children and Youth space is full of energy at the moment with Dave at the helm. CYYA has been exploring some great art initiatives around the property that we are keen to support.

We are also continuing a review process of the way that our congregation reports, receiving requests for the use of our property, and reorganising the storage of sensitive records and documents in the congregation.

Daniel Broadstock

Property Committee

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

- An additional Green Waste bin has been organised by Abi with the Moreland City Council.
- Door Stop for the gate on the east side of the ASWC has been resecured.
- External lighting upgrade has been undertaken at the Student House, lights and sensors.
- Graffiti has been removed from the blue stone fence on the north side of the church, the manse and student house.
- Maintenance of the church front door handle.
- Bird poo has been removed from the hall steeple.
- A bell has been discovered in the steeple.

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

- Finalise the shed paper work, keys etc.
- The emergency lighting in the church requires replacement due to failing the run-down test.
- 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. Latches have been purchased, to be installed.
- Large toilet paper dispensers to be installed in the 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.
- 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.
- Investigate the purchase of additional chairs and trolleys for the youth hall and hall.
-



Ray Cameron

Finance Committee



Good News

With increased mission activities, minister numbers and general growth in “everything” about this church, the tasks of Finance as “Enablers” of the “Doers” has increased. This September we introduce a new Finance staff ‘structure’ to BUC. We are delighted to advise that

ABI BENHAM-BANNON will take on the role of FINANCE COORDINATOR, responsible for a wide range of tasks, plus supervising a FINANCE CLERK, to be recruited. Both are part-time positions, with the flexibility we require. Finance Committee and Treasurer will still have certain responsibilities, please be assured. If you wish to look at the Position Descriptions for the roles, do look at the BUC website (members, pages, Finance).

Money, Money, Money

Thanks to all those who responded to information provided (aka “a rev-up”) in late July and early August by Shawn, Mal and Linda about Direct Credits. These offerings have bounced back and are now on back on track.

If you wish to change your offering (or add to your existing methods of offering) with Direct Credits, our bank account is with ANZ Brunswick, BSB 013236 Account 008687863. Other methods of giving are on the BUC website.

Financial Reports

Our next financial summary of income and expenditure will be for the 9 months to 30 September 2019. This will be with Council, committees and in the Olive Branch as well as on the website.

Crossword - the answers revealed ...

Linda Wannan

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

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

Down

- Animal hired with other Brunswick churches for Palm Sunday service (6)
- The last, and funniest, activity at Camp (7)
- Our special bright, warm and sunny space, the ... Hall (5)
- Traditionally the colour Lent; no chocolate! (6)
- The collection of 66 books, some quite strange, which is brought into worship (5)
- Scottish Saint after whom the church was originally named (6)
- The special place from which we get the baptism water (4,5,6)
- One of the colours of Pentecost (3)
- Scottish name for 'church' (4)
- How we heat the Youth Hall (11)
- A colour of Pentecost other than red (6)
- A sun-flower like colour of Pentecost (6)
- This crossword's subtitle relies on 'The ... of Inter-Generational Perversity' for its effect (3)
- The percussion instrument Al Hunter uses for great rhythms (6)

LAST MONTHS ANSWERS

Worship Committee

It would appear (based on last year and this year at least) that August is a rest month for the worship committee but only in that we didn't have a formal meeting.

Caitlin Mullen, Ian and Dave met for an initial brainstorming for the shape and theme of the **Christmas Eve pageant**. Caitlin has offered to write the script and be our Director. The committee is looking forward to hearing about what they discussed. We hope you are excited and want to get involved.

We are consulting with Clancy Moore of Quailwood Designs to shorten our lectern making it accessible to all ages & heights.



4/8 Pentecost 8 Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-26 Ian and Dave helped the children to bring the gospel story to life. They used the art smocks worn by the children when creating the office wall mural to lay down to make a road for Jesus to follow. The path took them past the table where Jesus breaks bread and where we

later shared Holy Communion, then on to the Cross where Jesus also later went after sharing the meal with his disciples.

[Jools Hamilton @ BUC](#) - We welcomed Jools Hamilton as our preacher.

Jools is a Methodist minister, currently working as Student Chaplain to Trinity College Dublin. Responding to the gospel, which was read in parts by Meg throughout the sermon, Jools engaged us in thinking about the idea that God saves us, sharing the long history of the Jewish people's hope for deliverance. He focussed in particular on the hope in the time of this story that Jesus would be the one to liberate them from Roman rule. Alongside this he spoke of the Irish rebels Easter rising which was smashed by the British Army. He noted that this rebellion was similar to Jesus proclaiming God's kingdom - proclaimed but not realised, at least not in the way people had hoped in that time.

Jools went on to share the story of his involvement in 'Space to Breathe', about an Israeli peace group replanting the fruit trees on Palestinian land which had been destroyed by the Israeli army. He then took us back to Jerusalem where the crowd, realising that Jesus wasn't going to give them what they wanted, moved very quickly from 'Hosanna' to 'Crucify him'. He spoke of Jesus' anger in the Temple saying '*Oh the irony and the challenge. Peace is proclaimed in what can be seen as a pretty violent way to proclaim that peace. It sends the people who run the worship in the Temple into the dark corners to say hang on a second what's going on here?*'. He reminded us then of the Sunday to follow saying '*The life that Jesus had lived, touching the untouchable, healing, forgiving, bringing close to faith and close to God, those who were kept far from God. That Sunday when Christ was risen and resurrected, that life was vindicated.*' And he affirmed '*May we be people who join in a life of love ...*'.

As we prepared to celebrate Holy Communion Jools shared one last story. A precious story of his sister's decision to give a very sick little boy, Colin, a life full of love and care. He commented that the doctor involved in Colin's care said that he would always choose life in similar situations based on what he had experienced through this gift. Jools concluded '*May we all be people who will feast at the Lord's Table together in union with the Father we pray. Amen*'. We concluded singing again the Taize chant 'The kingdom of God is justice and peace. And join in the Holy Spirit'.

11/8 Pentecost 9 Luke 12:32-40, Isaiah 1:1,10-20 Dave gathered the children in a circle on the floor where they talked about laying down burdens and not being able to sleep. He spoke about praying with his daughter Clara before bedtime to help her sleep. The children then all lay on the floor holding their hands up as Dave placed a rock in them to symbolise holding onto burdens and having laid the rocks down invited them to feel the difference.



[Living faithfully in unfaithful times](#) - Colin Hunter member of our congregation and retired minister offered the sermon in Ian's absence. He began sharing the two stories of his birth and went on to speak of the *'tectonic shifts in both church and state'* that he has experienced in his lifetime, saying *'it is on these upheavals that I want to reflect in the context of today's lectionary readings'*. He offered insights into his family background and emigration to Australia in 1952. He reflected on his experience of being grasped by *'the infinite'* saying *'From then on, for me, all dogmas, and creeds, all truth claims by others, had to pass the test, not only of rational enquiry, but the test of the immanent Spirit, from then on, the gatekeeper of my heart and mind.'*



Colin commented on the impact of Billy Graham's ministry in 1959 and the conservative evangelicalism which emerged setting this alongside *'the massive global power struggles (that) were changing the face of the geo-political landscape'*. He affirmed that in our time *'Truth has become a dispensable commodity; compassion and ethics are subservient to political ends; integrity comes a poor second to greed.'* Colin spoke of the chaotic times in the life of the prophet Isaiah and his universal message to *'wash yourselves clean'* reminding us that baptism *'draws us back to the essence of Christian faith, or as Luke describes it, the essence of following in the Way of Jesus. It calls us back to truth, compassion, integrity and servanthood'*. And finally commenting on the gospel reading Colin said that Luke uses the encounter to gather together *a parable about a rich fool, wisdom sayings about anxiety and greed over possessions, culminating in advice to his followers to set aside their fears and focus on what matters.* Colin asked *'So, in this season of Pentecost, as we enter a process of discernment with the Merri Project, what is our treasure? ...'* Reminding us of the shalom that Jools had spoken about the previous week Colin concluded *'And that 'shalom' will liberate us to seek justice, to rescue the oppressed, to defend the orphan, and plead for the widow.'*



the view from the sound desk ...



18/8 Pentecost 10 Luke 12:49-56, Psalm 82 Ian and Dave talked with the children about Jesus saying that he was going to light a fire in the world. They built a fire together and talked about other fires in the Bible - God appearing to Moses in the burning bush (appearing in the mystery of fire), God leading the Israelites with a pillar of fire (showing the way with fire), Jesus lighting the fire to cook breakfast for the disciples on the road to Emmaus, (burning in our hearts), the flames of Pentecost (the gift of the Holy Spirit). Dave commented on how we get concerned about fire in the bush but that the aboriginal people have a very different relationship with fire - lighting small fires to bring new life into the bush, enabling new growth to happen. Later the fire was lit outside with much joyful toasting of marshmallows.

[Peace or Division?](#) - Ian invited us to reflect with him on Jesus' stress levels on his way to Jerusalem as he is *'struggling within himself with the inevitability of his suffering and his death'*, and of his claim to be setting fire to the earth. He contrasted this with the words we hear each week *'The peace of Christ be always with you'*. Ian reminded us of world events affirming that there is much for us to be stressed about, making particular mention of leaders of Pacific nations whose futures are impacted by climate change. He offered us Greta Thunberg sailing her boat to the United Nations Climate Action Summit as a sign of the coming peace. Ian reminded us that *'The message of the gospel is that Christ's way of peace disrupts our secure, comfortable ways of being.'*, going on to explore people's responses to Greta's journey toward peace. He then shared his experience of hearing Greta's voice booming over the loud speaker as he encountered the Extinction Rebellion (after attending Food Co-op) who were holding a die-in causing division in the flow of traffic along Sydney Rd. He commented *'Like other non violent movements before it and Love Makes a Way comes to mind, Extinction Rebellion works to bring peace through disruption. Like fire blazing through the busy intersection, peace through disruption.'* Ian shared a personal experience of fire when visiting a Warlpiri community in the Central Desert and his fear of the fire that had been left to blaze after their meal spreading out to cause destruction contrasting this with the aboriginal people's relationship with the *'earth-renewing gift of fire in this land'*. Ian invited us to embrace the fire that Jesus brings to the earth. He said that when he prays in times of stress, when an emotional fire burns within him he is *'met not by a gentle divine stillness but by a raging divine firestorm. ... I'm not saying that I necessarily feel good or calm or happy but I feel a sense of being encompassed and held by something greater than myself, a fiery love that is disrupting the world into newness and I remember that only through fire is new life regenerated in the bush. And Jesus said I came to bring fire to the earth. Amen'*

25/8 Pentecost 11 Luke 13:10-17, Jeremiah 1:4-10 Inviting the children to join him, Ian adopted the posture of the bent over woman in the gospel story commenting that sometimes we say that we feel and say we are weighed down. Ian explained that Jesus was in the synagogue with the woman and seeing her he said 'woman you are set free'. Ian invited the children to adopt the woman's posture of praising God and notice how her relationship to God is changed as she moves from being bowed down to straightening up in praise to God.



Yes or no? - Ian opened his sermon saying *'In our gospel reading today a woman comes into the place of worship. She is weighed down and bent over by a burden of suffering. Jesus says yes to her but the leader of her worshipping community there says no.'* He went on to share [Phoebe Wang's story](#) saying that it had made him cry. He set her story alongside the story of the bent over woman affirming that his reflection is *'about the church's response to situations of oppression'*. He commented that *'in the ancient world of the synagogue she is not crippled but oppressed, held captive by a spirit of evil'* and that her story is about *'freedom from oppression'*. Ian reminded us of the first time Jesus enters a synagogue in Luke's gospel and of his proclamation from Isaiah noting that in this story he is doing just as he proclaimed. Returning to Phoebe's story he said *'Now let me reiterate I am not comparing Phoebe Wang's gayness to a disease or disability. I'm comparing the subversion of her full humanity in the church to that suffered by the bent over woman in her synagogue.'*

Ian drew our attention to Jesus' 'yes' to the woman in the synagogue and compared it to the leader's 'no'. He reminded us of the greatest commandment and of Paul's affirmation of this in Romans 13:9. Ian commented that all the 'nos' of other commandments *'are subsumed in the great yes of love'*. He said that the saddest part of Phoebe's story for him arises from the conversation Phoebe has with the leader of her former church who though he expresses his doubts is unable to come to a position of loving Phoebe as God does. Ian said *'Phoebe finds liberation by leaving behind the community which was to her as the synagogue was to the bent over woman, a community saying no right when God is saying yes.'* He left us with a picture of Phoebe *'finding a church, a family that says yes to her, where she is free to be herself, free to love as God loves her'* as she watches a drag show in a gay bar. He concluded *'And I pray for myself and for my church that we may be have faith and strength to embrace the cost of loving, continuing to grow, gay and straight together as a community of yes. In the name of Christ, the bringer of Sabbath freeing. Amen.'*

(Many thanks to Michael Cameron for taking the photos used in this report in my absence.)

Saide Cameron

> Preaching Plan

September 1	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion	September 29	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion	October 27	Kirsten Parris
September 8	Ian Ferguson	October 6	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion	November 3	Fiona Bottcher with Janet Reus-Smit presiding Holy Communion
September 15	Ian Ferguson	October 13	Ian Ferguson	November 10	Ian Ferguson
September 22	Ian Ferguson	October 20	Ian Ferguson	November 17	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
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
6/10	Pent 20	Lam 1:1-6	Lam 3:19-26 or Ps 137	2 Tim 1:1-14	Lk 17:5-10	G
13/10	Pent 21	Jer 29:1, 4-7	Ps 66:1-12	2 Tim 2:8-15	Lk 17:11-19	G
20/10	Pent 22	Jer 31:27-34	Ps 119:97-104	2 Tim 3:14 - 4:5	Lk 18:1-8	G
27/10	Pent 23	Jl 2:23-32	Ps 65	2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18	Lk 18:9-14	G

September Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 1 9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC Bring a plate to share MT 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p	2	3	4	5	6	7
		10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation 7:00 – Mulling	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 7:30 – Worship C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way		2:30 – Coffee 7:00 – Movie Night
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation 7:30 – Church Council	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way	7:30 – Youth Group	10:00 – Olive Pesto
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 – Ian Ferguson Welcoming Ceremony 11:45 – Potluck Lunch 1:30 – Mental Health Kit Launch 5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 7:30 – Worship C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way 6:45 – JAM C’tee		10:00 – Food Co-op
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:45 – Merri Project Forum 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church		7:30 – Property C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way 11:00 – Out & About 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way	Let the earth speak	Let the earth speak
29	30	October 1	2	3	4	5
Let the earth speak 9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC 5:00 – Indonesian W’p	Let the earth speak	L.t.e.s	Let the earth speak 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	Let the earth speak	Let the earth speak	Let the earth speak 3:00 – Maggie’s CD Launch 7:00 – Performance Night