

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

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

## > Meditation

### Remembering – An Easter Reflection

Luke's gospel tells us that the meaning and the joy of Easter comes through remembering.

*"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"* say the two dazzling messengers to the women in the otherwise empty tomb. *"He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."* Then they remembered his words... They remembered. What do you remember at Easter time?

In Luke's gospel the same women who come to the tomb first enter the story back in chapter 8: *[Jesus] went through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities.* The ancient world understood disease to be the work of evil pushing people out to the margins of faith and society and out of communion with God. In Jesus, therefore, the women at the tomb, have encountered healing, reconciling power which has brought them in from the margins to the centre of God's life. They subsequently followed him and heard his teaching. Jesus taught that reconciliation, peace, justice, and new life for all creation would come in this way: through death and then resurrection. He told them this repeatedly. But they didn't get it then and the memory of it was lost, swamped by the horrific wave of suffering that hit them. So the women come to the tomb expecting death not life, they have forgotten, they have lost their hope. But the angels of light cry, "Why are you here without hope?! Why do you look for the living among the dead?! Remember what he told you." Remember. And do we? Do we remember the reconciling power of hope at Easter time?

In the past I have conducted Holy Communion services in nursing homes for people who have lost the ability to remember. And I have observed what many others have also seen: people sitting catatonic, oblivious to their surroundings suddenly joining in the familiar words of hymns or the Lord's Prayer – remembering his words in the place of deepest forgetting.

In the world of the bible and of those faiths built upon it, remembrance means much more than simply recollecting the past, calling it to mind. Rather, remembrance is the tension between presence and absence. The biblical community "remembers" what is past and therefore "absent" and makes it present in its effects. "This day shall be a day of remembrance for you," says God to the Israelites at the first Passover, that ancient act of liberation made present in every subsequent re-enactment. "Do this for the remembrance of me", says Jesus echoing the Passover tradition he has grown up in. And we do, when we gather around his table. The Eucharist, Holy Communion, is not just a recollection of past events or stories, but a re-enacting, a re-embodiment, a remembering of it, so that what is absent and in the past will become present in power, present to feed our hope.

Theologian Dietrich Ritschl writes these words about remembrance: "The church invites its members to 'hope backward' into the realm of memory and to 'remember forward' into the realm of hope." And that is what we are invited to do at Easter – hold the tension between absence and presence, memory and hope.

The women at the tomb enter the emptiness of forgetting and remember. They remember healing, they remember hope, and they remember love.

What do you remember at Easter time?

Ian Ferguson



## > Worship Calendar

### May

#### Commissioning

Peter Blair and Dave Hall will be commissioned as our Olive Way and CYYA Pastors respectively at a Presbytery led service on **Sunday 5th May**, 1pm.

Afternoon tea will be provided after the service.

#### Ian on leave

We will welcome

- **Fiona Bottcher** as our preacher on **12th May**.  
Fiona is a member of our congregation, former Olive Way Co-ordinator and currently a candidate for the ministry of Deacon.
- **Valentina Satvedi-Leydon** on **19th May**.  
Valentina is a member of our congregation and currently the Student House Support Worker. She is an ordained Anabaptist minister.

#### Church Camp

We will welcome **Sunny Chen** as our preacher on **26th May** at home while Ian is away on camp.

The theme for this year's camp follows on from our Lenten & Holy Week. We will be '*Listening to ourselves...listening to each other...listening to the Earth...listening for the voice of God.*'

Worship at home will also attend to this theme.

Sunny is a regular visiting preacher. He is the University Chaplaincy Coordinator at the University of Melbourne.

### June

#### Pentecost Sunday



We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on **9th June**. Dress in red - the liturgical colour for the day.

We are delighted that the **Ecumenical service** will be hosted by the Brunswick Indonesian UC congregation at 5pm. Come and celebrate with our ecumenical neighbours and stay on afterwards for a shared meal.

#### Baptism

We will celebrate the baptism of Jacob Ly, son of Tonia Ly on **16th June**.



#### Reflective service

On the 5th Sunday in June - **30th June** the worship committee invites you into a worship service that offers a gentler more reflective style of worshipping God.

### July

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

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

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## > Holy Week 2019

During Holy Week we carried our Lenten listening on a pilgrimage through our worship.

We sang a pilgrim's greeting - '**Peace, Salaam, Shalom**'.

We marked our listening with a story staff, beautifully sculpted and carved by Colin Hunter.

We remembered and placed the stories of our time alongside Jesus' story.

We responded to the Bible readings:

*Jesus says, 'Take up your cross and follow me' - **By your strength in me, O God.***

We prayed, we sang, we grieved, we shared bread and wine.

We listened, remembered and celebrated together as God's pilgrim people.

Saide Cameron



## Nourish



On the two Wednesdays before Easter, **10th & 17th April**, we gathered for toasty, games and then a story and breaking bread with mostly primary aged children. Five children and around seven adults gathered for our first session. On the Wednesday of Holy Week nineteen children and around fifteen adults shared a story and breaking bread.

For the first session, Julie Perrin shared the beautiful story called 'Faces of Easter'. Janet Watson Kruse told 'The Holy Family' for the second session.

Together we wondered: What is your favourite part? What is the most important part, do you think? Which bit might be about you? What could we leave out and still have all the story we need? Hearing the children's many answers was as always illuminating, surprising and wonderful.

Then we broke bread, led by Ian and the children themselves.

The sense of connection with the story, the sense of presence with each other, and something beyond words in the breaking of bread was deeply felt.

Thank you to all the marvellous people who made this special time happen



Janet Watson Kruse

# Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday, **14th April**, offered us three story moments, three places on our Holy Week pilgrimage.

Our worship began at BUC as we listened to and remembered Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem. Ian invited the children to lay cloaks on Jesus' donkey, to lay them out as a path for Jesus to walk on and wave joyfully as we shouted out Hosanna.

We processed to St. Ambrose Catholic Church, following the donkey, to share an ecumenical remembering of the events of Palm Sunday.

Returning to BUC with the Brunswick Baptist congregation we encountered another story moment - Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. We were invited to dip our hand in the baptismal font, to trace a sign of the cross on our hand or forehead, to recall the things that we weep for in the world.

As we reflected on Jesus cleansing the temple, our third story moment, we wrote prayers for our world, our church and our community on cards with an image of our cross. We named those things that cast a shadow on the lives of the vulnerable people, those who have been damaged by those in power, whose voices are not heard.



As always it was a pleasure to share this part of the service with the Brunswick Baptist congregation and to receive a greeting from Pastor Mark Payne. Mark and Ian offered the blessing to conclude worship.



## Maundy Thursday



Maundy Thursday, **18th April**, also offered us three story moments, three more places further along our Holy Week pilgrimage.

First we remembered Jesus washing his disciples feet. We then washed each other's feet in four locations around the Gathering Space. We were also invited to write a prayer on the cards offered to add to our Palm Sunday prayers.



Then we moved into the worship space, placing our prayers in the bowl and lighting the candles set out in front of the communion table. We remembered Jesus last meal with his disciples, celebrating Holy Communion standing in a circle around the table, serving each other the bread and receiving the cup of blessing. Our liturgy included the responses used in the Nourish communion liturgy: Thank you God! Remember me. Come Holy Spirit. Amen!



We followed Jesus into the night listening to the story from Matthew's gospel extinguishing candles after each reading, ending in darkness, preparing to return again on Good Friday.

[Maundy Thursday Prayers](#) available here.



## Good Friday

And then our pilgrimage brought us to Good Friday, **19th April**. Entering the Gathering Space we encountered an artwork copied from a Renaissance painting by Graeme Galloway, one of our Olive Arts volunteer artists. The prayer cards written on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday accompanied the Cross.



We met Jesus story with stories and voices from our time recalling and remembering

- Jesus betrayal and the betrayal of clergy child sexual abuse experienced by too many people,
- Peter's denial of Jesus and stories of people denied justice and their proper place in the world and in particular the First Peoples of this land
- Jesus' trial and the terrible experiences of asylum seekers and refugees who come seeking a new life but who are instead imprisoned, detained without hope, stigmatised
- Jesus' crucifixion and people murdered and traumatised through hate filled violence together with the suffering of creation

We laid these and other stories on the black cloth flowing out from the Cross.



We responded to the story moment of Jesus death in prayer, gathering all our Lenten listening, praying that we would surround those who had been betrayed with love, resolve to act differently when confronted with injustice, listen for and speak the truth and live in peace, salaam, shalom.



Ian invited us to come forward and touch the Cross with veneration, to pray and touch the cross, bringing our story to meet Christ's story. We took the stories from the cloth and moving to the Gathering Space laid them on the painting adding the faces and voices that are missing from its ancient European whiteness. We sang 'Peace, Salaam, Shalom' and left in silence.

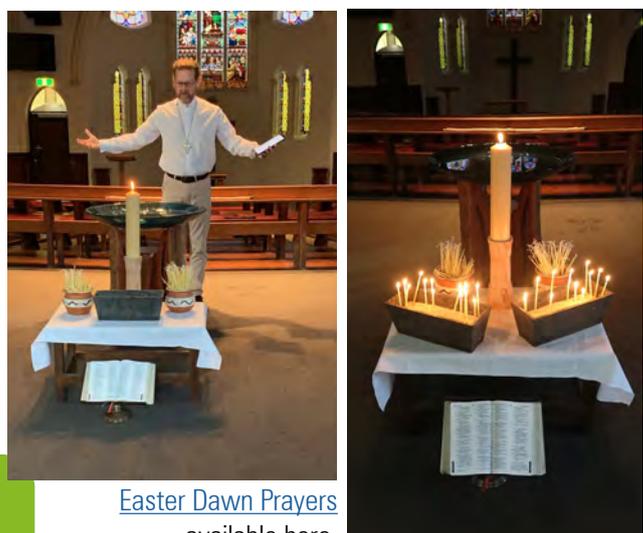


## Easter Dawn

On Easter morning, **21st April**, we gathered at Dawn to celebrate Christ's resurrection alongside the Indigenous Recognition Sculpture with a rather exuberant fire fanned by a sudden breeze. We listened to the story from John's gospel and joyfully responded to the Easter proclamation *Christ is risen: He is risen indeed!*

The new Christ candle was lit in the doorway and we gathered around the font as Ian invited us into a Remembrance of Baptism. We lit tapers, offering our prayers for the world, the church and for those we love.

After worship we enjoyed breakfast in the hall.



## Easter Day

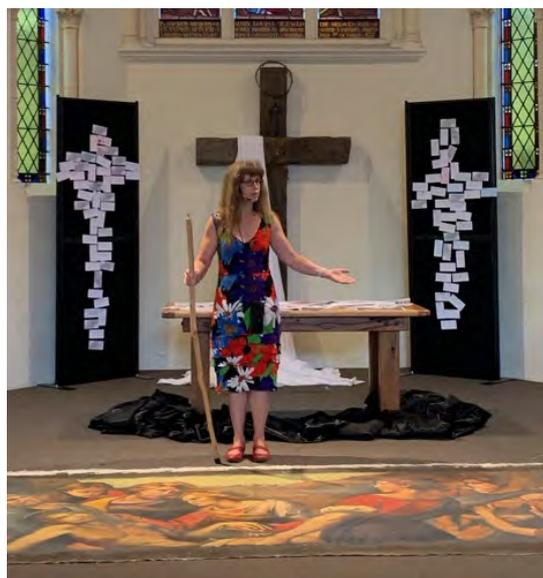


Our Holy Week pilgrimage reached its joyful conclusion with our Easter Holy Communion service, **21st April**. We began in the Gathering space where we joyfully sang of the Empty Tomb and responded again to the Easter Proclamation *Christ is risen: He is risen indeed!*

The children watched on as Ian lit the Christ Candle again and we sang our 2018 Brunswick Alleluia as we moved into the Gathering Space.



The story staff made its final appearance with Luke's gospel and we prayed '*... Raise us up anew this day and every day to walk with you, to follow you speaking words of hope, peace and love, a forgiven people, transformed by grace. Amen*'





With the children we transformed the space, placing the painting and our Good Friday stories under the communion table, rolling up the black cloth and covering the whole table with the white cloth. Bread and wine and flowers completed the transformation. Ian reminded us that *When we share the bread and wine we say that the risen Jesus is present with us in our sharing and that we are the risen body of Christ. So when we put it on the table here it is a sign of his resurrection for all to share.*



Ian's sermon was an invitation to practice ['Defiant Hope'](#). The Prayers of the People acknowledged that while there is darkness in the world Easter Day brings light and hope.



The children created butterflies to add to the Easter Garden. We celebrated Holy Communion gathered as one body in a full circle around the whole space. We lifted the roof, joyfully singing 'Thine be the Glory'.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to and participated in our Holy Week pilgrimage. Together we have told and shared the central story of our faith in word and action. We have listened and remembered. We have prayed, wept, sang and laughed together. We are the body of Christ, called to follow him.

**Saide Cameron**

[Easter Day Prayers](#) available here.

## > Pastoral Care News

### Welcoming Ceremony

During worship on **Sunday 31st March** we welcomed 10 people to our congregation. The Welcoming Ceremony is an opportunity for us to welcome people who have come to us in recent times. Each participant was invited to introduce themselves, share where they had come from, why they had decided to make BUC their spiritual home and what they are passionate about.



Ian, Philippa, David, Harriet, Maxine, Clementine, Conrad, Josh, Melvin, Claire, Vivienne

**Philippa Hamilton-Smith** has lived in Brunswick for a little over three years having relocated here after living & working in the NT for over 15 years. She said *The message that is given at the start of every service of reconciliation, social justice and looking after the land resonates very strongly with what I was doing in the NT. I had the opportunity and privilege of working and living with indigenous communities both in Darwin and in remote communities. Reconciliation resonates very strongly with me.*

**David Miller, Maxine Loynd and their two youngest children Clementine and Harriet** returned to Melbourne to be closer to their two older daughters Megan and Emily. David and Maxine have been living and working in Canberra for 10 years and are originally from Melbourne. David commented *'We'd been attending a small very progressive social justice oriented chronologically advanced congregation, St James in Canberra and were looking for something similar. Dave also commented on the familiar faces he has encountered from his years of growing up in the Uniting Church here in Melbourne since returning.*

**Conrad Wasko** moved from Sydney about a year ago to work at the University of Melbourne on a three year contract and is hoping to get a job to stay on longer than that. He said *'I like coming here because I think it's is a safe space, so thank you'.*

**Josh Bodenstaff** come from South Australia and is now working as a paediatric emergency nurse at the Royal Children's Hospital. He said *'The reason that I've come to Brunswick Uniting is that I've found it to be a warm welcoming and really inclusive church.'*

**Melvin Tan** moved to Melbourne on 20th January. He is a school teacher and his work brought him here. Melvin shared *'I'm from Sydney and I was worshipping at Wester?? UC and the minister there recommended this church to me as a good church for Bible teaching, worship (I have an interest in music because I sing) and also that it's a safe inclusive place'.*

**Clare Keogh** is from Ballarat. She said *'I choose Brunswick Uniting Church as my spiritual home because I really feel the welcome here, the inclusive care that's shared in the liturgy and by all of you people. I've struggled to find that since choosing to leave my childhood denomination and parish and so it's really good to find it here.*

**Viivienne Web** has been in Melbourne for about 18 months now having moved here from Brisbane but has also moved around quite a bit. She commented *'I was thrilled to find this church about a year ago but I was still looking around different churches trying to find the spiritual home after moving. I'd grown up in the Uniting Church and worshipped in Methodist churches and others as well and I was thrilled to find this church because what I see is faith in action. To me social justice is a huge component of that faith in action and really trying to follow the welcoming words of Jesus and I felt that as soon as I walked in the door here'.*

Ian then asked those being welcomed: "Do you name the Brunswick Uniting Church congregation as your community of faith?", and "Do you commit to actively participating within this community as the Spirit calls you?"

And the congregation: "Do you joyfully receive these people as fellow travellers along the way of discipleship?", and "Do you commit to maintaining the life of faith together with them as a community of Jesus Christ?"

We sang 'May God's sheltering wings' in blessing.

**Saide Cameron**

### Compassion

The Compassion Ministry Team has been quite busy reaching out to those in the BUC congregation over the last month, providing a variety of assistance. The work we do is mostly in the background to our community life, but nonetheless an important part of our commitment to the Christian faith. We recently met to plan our goals for the following year and how these may be achieved.

We rely very much on everyone to alert us if there are any situations where we could be of assistance. If you would like to be included in our daily prayer list or know of some one that requires support please do not hesitate to ring one of the team.

Ian Ferguson, Leanne Salau, Glenice Cook, Dani Chamberlain or Gwen Arnold

## Hospitality

How blessed is the Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC) that we once again had a new group of people wishing to participate in the Welcoming Ceremony (see previous page). The pastoral care teams shout out a loud Welcome to you all. These Welcoming Ceremonies are held at BUC twice a year for those people who wish to acknowledge BUC as their community of faith and to commit to participating in the life of the Church.

There were large attendances at BUC Easter Services, particularly Easter Sunday. On this day there were so many

visitors and others who perhaps might return on a regular basis, that the Hospitality team could not get around to them all. So we are grateful that our congregation as a whole has a strong culture of welcoming, where many met and chatted with the visitors.

For you in the congregation, if you are new or newish and wish to make yourself known to us or become more engaged with the activities and life at BUC, one of the Pastoral Care Hospitality team would love to assist you - Ian Ferguson, Jane Allardice, Ray Cameron, Sheila Calwell, Graham Lawrence and Michael Rigby.

**Jane Allardice**



## Community

### Good Friday lunch

After worship on Good Friday we gathered for lunch at Adrian & Anita's home to eat soup and hot cross buns.

As always Alistair Hunter provided us with a wide variety of speciality soups - 14 in total including Seafood Laksa, Blue Cheese & Broccoli, Lamb & Barley, Chicken Tom Yum, Honeyed Pumpkin, Spiced Cauliflower - so many options.



Ray Cameron was surrounded by many willing helpers to make over 500 hot cross buns in 5 delicious flavours - traditional, white chocolate & cranberry, chocolate choc-chip, red velvet and date & LSA. Something for very everyone.



It was definitely good to spend time enjoying and appreciating the hospitality, company and conversation offered.

## Church Camp: LISTENING

### Listening to ourselves...listening to each other...listening to the Earth...listening for the voice of God.

This year's BUC Camp is 24-26 May, at the delightful Adekate Lodge. As the theme suggests, it's a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other better. Come for the whole weekend, or any part of it! Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/BBYDE>, with an EARLY BIRD discount of 20% - so book now! See the [brochure here](#).

If you have any questions or want to offer to help out in preparation or at the camp please contact our Camp Co-ordinator Anthony Hinds, 0478 692 607 or committee members Shawn Whelan, 0418 613 898, Courtney Rohde, 0448 233 321.



See page 23 for more opportunities for gathering in community

## > Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

### Welcome Dave Hall

*Dave Hall will be commissioned as our Children, Youth & Young Adult Pastor during a Presbytery led worship service on **Sunday 5th May, 1pm at BUC**. Here Dave offers a greeting and introduction ...*

Hi BUC,

Just a few words of introduction. I'm about to start as your Children, Youth and Young Adults minister (pastor). I'm looking forward to building on the great work that's been happening for many years, and in particular recently by Janet W-K, Janet H and Valentina.

I've attended Brunswick Uniting on-and-off for over 20 years, beginning at South-West in 1998 after moving back from Broome where I worked in the tourism industry. My wife, Fran Barber, is a Uniting Church minister, so I've been attending her churches a bit. We have three children – Samuel (14), Patrick (11) and Clara (9). They live very active lives, although I must confess that church activities are not super high on their priority list – it's footy, cricket and gymnastics, instead. I do get a lot of joy out of spending time with them, watching them grow and develop. I help to coordinate our local junior cricket cub in West Footscray, and at times can be seen umpiring some junior games of footy.

As a family, we like to travel, have meals with friends, go to the movies and body surf near Barwon Heads.

Work-wise, for the past ten years I've been one of the Chaplains at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School. This is a large, independent school in East Keilor with a connection to the Uniting Church. A big part of my role there was teaching different World Religions to students in Year 7, 8 and 9. We teach Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. I also helped to lead many chapel services for the whole school – Prep through to Year 12. We coordinated a couple of amazing Social Justice teams for the older students, and I helped with pastoral care of students and staff.

Before that, I worked for about ten years in the Synod, firstly helping to coordinate NCYC '99 in Geelong (the National Christian Youth Convention), and then in some promotions and mission planning work. Education-wise, it's a B.Bus (Tourism), B.Theol and Grad.Dip.Ed. (Religious Education) for me.

It was a hard decision to leave PEGS as it was a great place to be a Uniting Church pastor, but when I read the profile for this new ministry position at BUC, I knew that I couldn't ignore it. In my farewell speech I said that I'm going to a place that has sustained and inspired my PEGS ministry for ten years. I also said that when I'm at Brunswick UC I feel like I'm a better version of myself more of the time. I guess I'm saying that I feel a great connection with God in this community.

I grew up in a fairly lively church in Gisborne, but I didn't really have a 'living faith' until I went on some youth camps organised by the YMU back in the '90's. So, I like helping young people to grow in their faith in Christ.

I asked a Uniting Church Minister once: "Why are you still a Christian?" His response has stayed with me, and is how I answer the same question: "Because I continue to be fascinated with this person named Jesus – that he could give us the best glimpse of what God is like."

I love it when people get a little glimpse of God's hope for the whole of creation, of amazing grace... when we see things more deeply, from a different perspective, dare I say it, from God's perspective.

I'm looking forward to getting to know a lot of the children, youth, young adults and families at Brunswick UC, and making a positive contribution to the life of this lively community.

Shalom.



a photo from a couple of years ago ...

## > 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

### Peter Blair, Olive Way Pastor

Peter Blair will be commissioned as our Olive Way Pastor during a Presbytery led worship service on **Sunday 5th May, 1pm at BUC**. Here Richard Arnold provides an insight into the Olive Way Ministry and Peter's role in that as our OW pastor.

For 12 years the Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC) has sought to be a witness in the world through the ministry of Olive Way. The vision is to create a place in which community and a sense of belonging can flourish for people who live in or visit Brunswick. This is achieved by promoting the values of inclusion, acceptance and respect, hosting a place of hospitality and a listening ear, and working with others to provide opportunities to engage people's interests, passions, in which participants may discover something about themselves.

In this way BUC hopes that God's boundless love to all who come can be revealed, just as is hoped for during the many other activities which evolve out of BUC – worship, children and youth activities, education, fun and recreation. In this way church happens seven days a week, not just on a Sunday!

Wonderful relationships have been formed and nurtured at the Olive Way over the years. The joys and struggles of participants have become those of the whole BUC community as a deeper connection with whole Brunswick community has evolved.

Olive Way is not just the Coordinator and the leadership team. It is the combination of the passion and energy invested by many different people over the years. It is the combined wisdom of the current and former members of the steering committee, staff, volunteers and participants. However, the role of Coordinator is a key role and good leadership is essential, just as Minister of the Word is a key role in BUC

Last year Church Council decided last year that the role of Olive Way Coordinator would be changed to Pastor (a form of lay ministry within the Uniting Church), to reflect the posture of listening and nurture that is the direction that we, as Olive Way, the Steering Group and Church, wish to see that ministry take. Pastor can mean many things in many congregations, ministries, and denominations, but for this church it is about recognizing the place of Olive Way as an embodiment of the gospel.



Peter with Irene at Wednesday lunch

The Pastor's role is a ministry of leading the congregation "on the way of Jesus" though embodying or modelling the gospel (rather than preaching and teaching it). The ways in which Jesus embraced strangers, sinners, and outsiders through compassionate listening, forgiving acceptance, hope-giving presence, encouraging creative use of a participant's gifts – are all aspects of the gospel. The Pastor will also interpret and share the joys and struggles of people at the Olive Way with the whole congregation through the lens of God's participation in the world and the story of Jesus.

This is a mission-focussed leadership role of journeying with the congregation as they seek to be God's people in the world. It will involve engaging with and communicating regularly with the congregation (for example through conversations, articles, stories, prayers) so that they continue to grow in their understanding, involvement and commitment to the Olive Way as an expression of BUC's ministry with the wider community.

The Pastor will also need to hold many threads together in a complex interaction of volunteers, participants, other users of the church property, and a wide range of enrichment activities, all of which have their particular needs and agendas. Skills in mediation will be essential.

According to our Basis of Union "Christ who is present when he is preached among the people is the Word of the God who acquits the guilty, who gives life to the dead and who brings into being what otherwise could not exist. Through human witness in word and action, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ reaches out to command people's attention and awaken their faith; he calls them into the fellowship of his sufferings, to be the disciples of a crucified Lord; in his own strange way he constitutes, rules and renews *them as his Church*." (*Basis of Union 4*).

It is in this spirit we seek to embody and live out the witness that we have been called to - to listen, to hear, and to respond in love.

**Richard Arnold**, Chair of Olive Way Steering committee

The [Olive Way](#) is open on **Tuesday to Thursday** from 10 am - 1:30 pm.

- Writing Workshop - Tuesday
- Community Lunch & Art programs - Wednesday
- SROC (drama group) - Thursday

Coffee, tea, sandwiches and light snacks are always on offer. On Wednesdays we offer a two course cooked lunch at 12:30.

New volunteers are always welcome. If you're interested in helping out by making coffees or conversation, or by playing a board game or having a chat with someone, we are very keen to meet you.

Contact Peter Blair, ph. 0431 193 810.

## From the committee

Our April meeting was an excellent opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the many activities for which we have oversight.

### Olive Way

We are looking forward to Peter Blair's **commissioning as our Olive Way pastor on 5th May**.

We are delighted that **Kimberly Fraser** has joined the **Olive Way Steering committee**. This committee is very small. Please consider joining the committee which meets in the afternoon on the third Thursday each month. We need more people to share the vital work of supporting the vibrant and thriving Olive Way ministry. Contact Richard Arnold, for more information, 0407 796 429.

### BUC Arts

Lots happening in this space including:

- a Life Drawing series in June & July
- World Wide Knit in Public Day, 8th June
- an Art Exhibition in late September
- Olive Arts artists continue to join the ArtStop program
- plans to create role descriptions for the various ways that people participate in art program and activities

### Northsiders with Refugees - Wills Candidates forum

Approximately 150 people attended the forum, held at BUC on **Tuesday 23rd April**, giving candidates in the Wills electorate the opportunity to share their views on asylum seeker and refugee policies.

## Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday Rally on **Sunday 14th April** was an opportunity to add our voices to the call for justice for refugees and an end to the detention asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus Island. Speakers included (in order of appearance): Mohamed Mohideen, Behrouz Boochani, Richard Flannagan, Nyadol Nyuon, Lavanya Thavaraja, Taqi Azra, Michele O'Neil. You can listen to an [audio recording](#) of the speakers here, courtesy of 3CR community radio.



A huge thank you to everyone who came to the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees this year. We had an amazing BUC presence (strong in numbers and in energy!) and were joined by Love Makes A Way and members from other congregations including Brunswick Baptist and Ascot Vale Uniting. Our beautiful 'Welcome' banner got a wonderful response with many photos taken and conversations started. Around 10,000 people attended the Melbourne rally overall, with many more happening around the country, and there was a hopeful and determined energy throughout. Let's keep it up, and hope that rallies like these are not needed for much longer!



PS - The Welcome Banner was made as a worship activity and lovingly assembled by Helen Burnham during Lent in 2017.

### FUNdraising

- We noted the lower than usual response to the **Lenten Appeal stalls** and will continue to reflect on the implications of this for the regular contributors. Our thanks to Glenice Cook, Natalie Papworth, Leanne Salau and Saide Cameron.
- The **Op Shop** will be running for four weeks from **28th April**. Always lots of fun. Thank you Helen Burnham and her many helpers for making this happen each year.

### Palm Sunday

Approximately 30 people attended from BUC attended the rally on **Sunday 14th April**, some familiar faces and some new. As always our Welcome Banner generated lots of interest and requests for photos.

### Open your eyes training

Ann Soo spoke about the training that she and Helen Rowe attended recently. This program is offered by Arts Access providing a social model of disability. It seeks to assist providers in removing barriers to participation in the community.

We have asked Ann to speak with the providers regarding the possibility of providing training that focuses on our community and what more we can do to work towards inclusion.

Saide Cameron

Abi Benham-Bannon with Saide Cameron

## Olive Way

Every now and then we get a chance to celebrate events with our guests at Olive Way. One of our guests has been struggling with an ongoing battle with Centrelink. Despite an obvious disability he has been living on a Newstart payment for years after losing his job. From that time on he has been forced to look for work, to keep up his mutual obligation requirements, attend job hunting courses and live on a very basic income. It hasn't been easy for him.

To ensure that he has sufficient funds to maintain a rental property he would buy only a few packets of instant noodles, a tin of baked beans, a loaf of bread and a carton of UHT milk. He would never heat his unit in winter, wearing thick jackets around the house and wearing them to bed. He only used his fridge sporadically to save energy cost and would only boil water on the stove for his coffee. To make ends meet he would supplement his meals by attending places like Olive Way, the Salvos and whatever else he could find.

To top it off he ended up having to move out of his rental apartment after the landlord decided to sell up, effectively becoming homeless. He ended up in a garage in Brunswick in the middle of a cold snap. He had the good fortune of being able to store his white goods at a tram driver friend's home whilst he sought alternate accommodation. And to add insult to injury his landlord refused to pay him the bond.

In the meantime we did whatever we could for him, knowing that the decision was not fair. Julie and people from the church have been providing assistance and advice where we could.

It was quite heartbreaking to hear that after a year of waiting for his appeal to come up for his Disability Support Pension, and after high expectations of a favourable outcome he was once again knocked back late last year. This meant he had to once again appeal that decision by going to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. I attended the hearing with him a couple of months ago. It was a positive hearing and the tribunal member seemed sympathetic towards him.

So, after more than two years he was finally awarded his DSP. The whole of Olive Way seemed to breathe a sigh of collective relief for him.

These are the kind of things that remind me of what we are here for. We were not the people to provide all of our friend's needs but to hold him in a supportive community whilst he contended with the powers that be. We are not equipped to be social workers, professional advocates, or lawyers but to stand in the gap in support. The early Christian community in Acts 2:44-46 lived communally, sharing their resources to support each other in the face of persecution when the authorities turned against them. The world can be a hostile place, often unintentionally, but my hope and prayer is that we will be a safe harbour in troubled waters; such is the ministry of the church.

**Peter Blair**, Olive Way Coordinator

## FUNdraising News

### Lenten Appeal Stalls

Tables laden with preserves, delicious biscuits and Easter craft greeted the congregation on the way into morning tea after worship on **Sundays 7th & 14th April**.

We raised \$601 in support of the VicTas Synod Lenten Appeal. Projects featured in this year's appeal are:

- Ecumenical Accompaniment Program Palestine and Israel (EAPPI); *International*
- Homework Hub Pakenham/Officer; Pakenham Uniting Church; *Melbourne Metro*
- Benalla Central Community Garden; Benalla Uniting Church, *regional Victoria*
- Migrant Women's Music and Language Project; Scots-Memorial Uniting Church Hobart, *Tasmania*

Find out more about these projects [here](#).

### A question

We are wondering if there is a better way for people in the congregation to use their creative culinary & crafty gifts to raise money to support projects and other important activities.

One possibility is to develop a catalogue of possibilities. When you want to order something you can simply let us know or we could make this a once a term, order in advance catalogue. Please let us know what you think.

### Pop Up Op-Shop

The highly anticipated and greatly enjoyable Op Shop is on again for four weeks commencing **Sunday 28th April**. Come along ready to snap up a bargain or too. Thank you to everyone who has donated pre-loved items. There is something for everyone at this year's Op-Shop. Thank you to Helen Burnham ably assisted by Lois Fitzgerald for sorting everything out and making it accessible.

Proceeds from the Op Shop will provide valuable seed funding for our upcoming Art Exhibition - see BUC Arts news for more information.

### FUNdraising Activities

A reminder that there are no plans to hold major events this year. Instead we welcome other creative ways to have fun raising money. You might like to host a movie night in the church or book Terry Towelling and Tank Tops for a backyard band party or organize a musical afternoon, just to name a few possibilities.

Money raised will be directed local initiatives and Synod appeals.

Contact a member of the FUNdraising team with your responses to our questions and with your creative ideas for FUNdraising

**Saide Cameron, Glenice Cook, Jessica Kvanskul**  
0407 096 743, 0414 319 649, 0432 910 152

## BUC Arts

There are lots of ways to be involved in making art at Brunswick UC including groups, projects, workshops and special events.



### World Wide Knit in Public Day

We first participated in the WWKIP event in 2017 and were delighted to welcome people from all walks of life including beginning and experienced knitters. This year's theme is **Knit Give and Respect**. We'll be opening our doors on Saturday 8th June, 11am-5pm. Lunch (soup & rolls) will be provided. Andrea Zilberman of KOGO will be our keynote speaker at 1.30pm in main church. Her presentation will focus on homelessness.

Our advertising will include a Real Estate Board, our website, tower room window display, Facebook and the Moreland Leader. Please come along to experience the buzz and the clicking of needles, even if you're not a knitter. Everyone is welcome.

A working group to prepare for the day is being formed. Please contact Ann Soo, 0422 842 244, if you would like to join.

### Olive Arts Collective

The OAC artists have been joining with the ArtStop 21 program during the Arts Access funded period on Wednesday mornings as part of a trial arising from the review conducted in 2018. At the conclusion of the funded program The Olive Arts Collective will resume the leadership of the art program.

The trial will be reviewed at the end of the 14 weeks mid-May with the outcome informing and shaping our ongoing relationship with Arts Access.

### Perceptual Drawing

Priscilla Manthey will offer a six weeks series that will engage participants in the practice of Life Drawing. Priscilla comments *I would like to realign some of the understandings about the nature and purpose in the practice of Life Drawing. For decades, centuries even, held as the essential starter for any art practice, the transition to abstract, political, social critique subject matter, and digital means of representation, has rendered this activity superfluous to serious art study.*

The workshops will be offered in 2 three week blocks in June and July - details are being finalised. Participants will be invited to make a \$5-\$10 donation towards the cost of running the workshops. If you have any questions or want to express interest please contact Ann Soo.

### Exhibition

We're very excited to announce that following on from the very successful and highly enjoyable 2017 'What is Creativity?' Exhibition we'll be hosting another exhibition in September. The exhibition featured the works of more than 40 artists and was a truly amazing experience.

We don't have any details for this year's exhibition as yet. All our energy is currently focussed on WWKIP Day so watch this space in July for a theme and lots more information about ways to get involved.

### Olive Pesto

The Youth Hall comes to life on the second Saturday of the month with crafters joining to work on personal projects, learn new skills and enjoy the atmosphere of shared craft making and conversation. Come and check out [Olive Pesto](#) from 10am-noon or contact Linda Wannan, 0405 470 568

## > Discipleship & Education News

### Lenten Study Group

This year to aid our Lenten reflections, the congregation was invited to use a daily bible reading and prayer resource prepared by the staff at the Centre for Theology and Ministry. A group was convened which met for four weeks during Lent to discuss people's reflections. This year the group was led by members of the Ministry Team (Peter and Valentina) and the Discipleship and Education Committee (Helen and Jenne) - each leader used a common outline. The sessions incorporated prayer and meditative time including candle lighting. The discussions explored the faith of the participants, using the resource as a launching pad. The sharing quickly moved beyond the particular passages. There was warm and deep sharing where everyone spoke, even those who had not done the homework!

## > Happy Birthday

Chris Allan, Kim Allan, Peter Allan, Andrea Alvis, Sheree Anderson, Richard Arnold, Benedict Baker, Fran Barber, Michael Cameron, James Clough, Brian Conway, Malachi Conway, Gus Coverdale, Clara Hall, Anita Major, Aidan McNamara, Catherine Mullen, William Nankervis, Lauren Reader, Dieter Tieman



## > Regular Events

### BUC Cycle

Join an enthusiastic group of cyclists after worship every 5-6 weeks and explore Melbourne's bike tracks. We head off after worship and cycle for about two hours and usually stop off for icecream and/or a drink along the way.

Next ride - **to be advised**

For more details contact Graham Lawrence, 0408 617 416.

### Singing The Sacred Harp

The Sacred Harp Singing is a group of people who meet to sing from a book called "The Sacred Harp". This music is participatory, a cappella, loud, folk hymn singing, which originates from the USA. The book "The Sacred Harp" is a collection of shape note songs from various sources, from the 1770's to the present day. All singers of all abilities are welcome to come as often (or as infrequently) as they are able.

The style of music sounds something like a cross between Eastern European and Irish folk music. For more information on Sacred Harp music please visit [www.fasola.org](http://www.fasola.org)

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

### Table Church

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

We are meeting on the **second & fourth Sunday of the month**. Everyone is welcome and you can come every fortnight or just as you are available. If you are interested, or just want to know a little more, please contact Helen (0423 009 813).

### Mulling

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.

- 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 22nd May 2019**  
Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

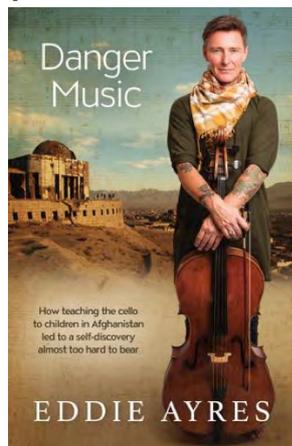
Danger Music by Eddie Ayres.

From the former ABC Classic FM classicist comes a remarkable story about the power of music and courage to be one's self.

In 2014 Emma was spiralling into a deep depression, driven by anguish about her gender. She quit the radio, travelled, and applied for a position at Dr Sarmast's renowned Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul, teaching cello to orphans and street kids.

Danger Music takes us through the bombing and chaos of Kabul, into the lives of the Afghan children who are transported by Bach, Abba, Beethoven and their own exhilarating Afghan music. Alongside these epic experiences, Emma determines to take the final steps to secure her own peace; she becomes the man always there inside - Eddie.

Everyone welcome. Speak to Faye or Christine if you would like more information. Faye 9379 1317 [faye.findlay18@gmail.com](mailto:faye.findlay18@gmail.com) or Christine 9386 8919 [christine@hornby.id.au](mailto:christine@hornby.id.au)



### YUCY

A Youth Group is offered for teenagers in Years 7-9 fortnightly on a Friday during term time.

Contact Janet Hogan (0423 338 674)

### Out and About Group

Excursion for May will be to the Cranbourne Australian Garden. **Friday 10th May**. RSVP by 3 May please. We are seeking offers of passenger seats to assist with transport for non-drivers. For more information about the excursion details and costs please contact Helen Rowe ASAP.

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

### Saturday Coffee

Join us at 2:30 pm on the **first Saturday** each month at a local café. Very informal and all women are most welcome. Contact Leanne Salau (9386 1484)

## Olive Pesto

At Olive Pesto we 'Make, Learn, Laugh, Share'. Come along to the Youth Hall on the **second Saturday** of the month, 10am-noon. Bring along your own project and/or be ready to learn a new craft. Contact Linda Wannan, 0405 470 568.

## Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

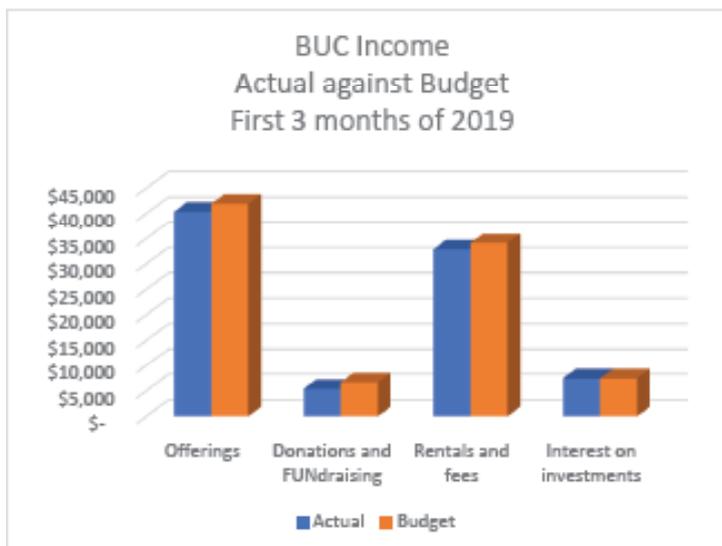
Next Distribution Day – **Saturday 18th May**, 10 am - 12 noon.

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. New members welcome!

## > Reports

### Finance Committee

Finance Report for May 2019 "Olive Branch"					
<b>Summary: First 3 months income and expenditure indicate</b>					
* slightly below budget income but					
* significantly below budget expenses.					
The result is still a deficit, but not one as as great as that which was budgeted.					
Note: the BUC budget is not evenly spread over the year.					
Income BUC	Actual	Budget	Income Mission Partners	Actual	Budget
Offerings	\$ 40,355	\$ 41,875	Donations and FUNdraising	-	-
Donations and FUNdraising	\$ 5,333	\$ 6,600			
Rentals and fees	\$ 32,819	\$ 34,075			
Interest on investments	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,400			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 85,907</b>	<b>\$ 89,950</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Expenditure BUC	Actual	Budget	Expenditure Mission Partners	Actual	Budget
BUC	\$ 93,751	\$ 100,925	Provision for Payments	-	-
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (7,844)</b>	<b>\$ (10,975)</b>			
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>			



For more detail, go to the BUC members pages of the BUC website <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/>  
And feel free to talk with Finance Committee folk: Naomi David, Mal Rowe and Linda Wannan.

## Church Council

*Alas, this will be another news-only report from Church Council. We hope to return you to the delightful creativity of Secretary Daniel Broadstock next month...*

### Goals

At our April meeting, we set a list of goals for 2019. These reflect conversations at the wider Leadership Retreat in early February as well as among Church Council. Our **overarching goal** is to continue working on the **six Major Commitments** adopted in our 2017 Strategic Plan. The 13 additional goals, many of which are steps towards those major commitments, will be available on our website after we finish some editing and tidying up. Three goals that I particularly want to highlight relate to participation, leadership and diversity:

#### Encourage more involvement

- Identify and respond to barriers to participation (physical, linguistic and cultural/systemic);
- review reporting requirements;
- encourage individuals to join relevant committees (especially men) & become involved in leadership (especially women in senior roles);
- co-ordinate calendar of activities to maximise opportunities for participation, while avoiding feelings of overwhelmed/too busy/burnt out

#### Women (and/or gender diverse people) providing, and publicly visible in, senior leadership

- Ministry Team supervisor
- Visible roles in worship, etc
- Other visible leadership roles

#### Building up our diversity

- increased and deepened relationships across cultural, ethnic & other lines
- leadership of BUC more fully reflecting the diversity of our members

## Property Committee

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

- Air fresheners have been installed in the toilets.
- 3 additional large toilet paper dispensers have been purchased to be installed in the toilets.
- Met with church handy man (Laurie Bonney) to undertake the planned maintenance items for the year.
- Flexible pump segments replaced in the Dish washing machines chemical peristaltic pump.
- 3 Hall bench seats have been sold.
- Applied final coat of oil to the bench seats on the west side of the church.
- Adam Moorhouse has offered to mow the lawns, as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award.

We were also delighted to see the goals set by several of the main committees, and look forward to others at our May meeting.

### Other news

Church Council agreed to JAM's proposal that we commission the **banner** now hanging at the front of the hall, facing Sydney Rd. This banner is part of an interfaith effort through ARRCC (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change).

BUC members have also participated with ARRCC in public actions such as the recent "Funeral for Coal" outside Bill Shorten's office, and supporting the student strike for climate action.

We are planning for the imminent arrival of **our new CYYA Pastor, Dave Hall**. After his induction on 5th May and his on-the-ground start on 15th May, we've approved a couple of weeks of handover for the **three interim staff members** working in that space: Janet Watson Kruse, Janet Hogan and Valentina Satvedi. We're also planning to conduct exit interviews with each of them, to pick up on additional "lessons learned" from their time in their roles. We can't thank them enough for their terrific work – but more on that later.

Finally, two quick notes: we approved in principle (depending on details to be confirmed) a request for **Disability awareness training** for Olive Way and BUC Arts volunteers; and we're continuing to work on **finding people for several volunteer, committee and roster roles**. Can you help?

**Shawn Whelan**, Council Chairperson



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

- The Property Committee to manage the construction of the sheds in conjunction with the JAM committee. Awaiting an update from Tony Urwin. Brunswick Council responding to permit.
- Laurie to investigate the requirements to repair: 1) stone capping on west wall, 2) lintel over west door entrance in the welcome space and 3) key stone repairs/replacement in a window in the chapel space.
- One Japanese maple tree remains in the walkway pots. Decision to be made as to its removal.
- Undertake the work on the hall's operable wall, skirts and attach panel segment. Ensure hatch is rehinged.

- Hatch above the east doorway between the church and the Olive Way to be finalised.
- Large toilet paper dispensers to be installed in each toilet cubicle
- Gas heater on the south and east walls of the hall aren't operating, to be repaired.
- A bird grill will need to be reinstalled on the hall steeple.
- Student House painting quotes being assessed.
- Student House maintenance items to be attended to; door handles, towel rails, toilet roll holders.
- Ensure that slate tile is reinstated on the church roof.
- Replace the faulty water tank pump in the south water tank.
- Graffiti to be painted over
- Preparing role descriptions for three activities 1) Cleaning Liaison, 2) Property Committee Member & 3) Garden portfolio.

Ray Cameron

## Worship Committee

At our April meeting we reflected on the final three Sundays in the season of Lent and noted

- Janet's engagement with the fig tree was lovely and fun, highlighting the importance of water drawing the children into a conversation about Jesus as the source of living water
- the joy of the Welcoming ceremony, see p10
- the power of the Uluru statement read in its entirety
- our appreciation of Geoff Thompson's preaching and presiding over Holy Communion
- the Love Makes a Way Mission spot offered by Andrea Alvis and Phil Hudson's very moving 'Five Years' video clip.

We agreed that our Lenten listening has provided us with a range of diverse situations and ways of listening.

We offered our thanks to Saide Cameron for her initial work on bringing our ideas and possibilities together to facilitate further preparations for Holy Week. Smaller groups offered to plan individual services. Our thanks to Claire Foley who joined the Holy Week worship planning groups.

We are looking forward to our Worship Workshop series over three Thursdays - 25th June, 11th & 18th July. We will explore the Traditions and Theology of worship, shaping the liturgy and how we worship.

**31/3 Lent 4 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32** Ian invited the children to listen to the first part of the parable of the Prodigal Son. Leading into the Welcoming Ceremony he asked the children if they had heard a welcome in the story. We learnt a welcome home gesture and practiced on Emily, Harry and Bruce who have recently returned from England. Ian retold the story and we sang 'I will arise', in the voice of each of the characters along the way using our welcome gesture for the last line 'All will be well and all be one'. See the Welcoming Ceremony story, p 11.



**Forgiveness: what, how, why?** To help us reflect on forgiveness Ian began by sharing the anger of one of the members of a previous congregation in response to the forgiving attitude of some Christians after 9/11. He wondered *What role might forgiveness have in the justice, peacemaking and reconciliation envisioned in that document?* and spoke of the complexities of forgiveness. Ian shared his learning about forgiveness from the Pilgrim

College Intensive on Luke's gospel that he's been doing, *that Luke uses the word 'forgiveness' more than any other Biblical writer* and that the Greek word Luke uses 'aphiemi' literally means 'to release'. Ian said this new learning *expands my sense of what we could mean by forgiveness*.

We discussed the current challenges being experienced in relation to the Sunday roster. An email template has been developed which will be sent out by the liturgist each week to remind roster participants and to support them in their contributions to 'the work of worship'. Some roster guidelines will be updated in the near future. The folders in the worship space will also be checked and updated as necessary.

We are delighted that the BIUC congregation will be hosting the Ecumenical Pentecost Service on 9th June. Please put this date in your diary. Come and share worship with our neighbours.

The collection of BUC songs will be gradually uploaded to the website for easy downloading. Watch out for more details.

We're exploring options for addressing the challenges of our rather tall lectern. If anyone has any suggestions please let one of us know.

We're also exploring the possibility of hosting a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon later in the year - an opportunity to share our love of music together.

We are looking forward to welcoming Valentina Satvedi-Leydon (current Student House Support worker), Fiona Bottcher (currently a candidate for the Ministry of Deacon) and Sunny Chen (co-ordinator of chaplaincy at the University of Melbourne) as our preachers over three Sundays in May.



Ian explored forgiveness through the parable of the Prodigal Son, the forgiveness modelled by the father and son and the anger of the older brother, wondering where that anger might lead. He invited us to consider the example and story of Farid Ahmed whose wife was killed in the Christchurch massacre. Ian commented that *'Since his devastating loss Farid's has been a remarkable voice of compassion.'* He went on to share Farid's powerful words of forgiveness for the gunman.

Ian concluded asking what do we feel about Farid's forgiveness and wondered if there is something of Christ in him. He asked *Does his forgiveness have the power to shake the world, to upset the status quo, to release those oppressed by hate and to remake the world in love? I pray that it does. In the name of Christ, Amen.*

After the sermon our Lenten Listening invited us *to listen to the voices of the First Nations people through the Uluru Statement, an outcome of the constitutional convention attended by 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders who met at the foot of Uluru in Central Australia from 23rd to 26th May 2017.* Geoff Thompson read the statement and we responded in prayer singing 'Kyrie eleison' (Lord have mercy) through the statement and in words at the conclusion.



**7/4 Lent 5 John 12:1-8; Isaiah 43:16-21** Janet spoke with the children about Judas being cross with Mary for wasting the special perfume that she used to wash Jesus' feet and offered other reasons why Judas might have been cross. She spoke of Jesus challenging Judas' understanding of Mary's actions and wondered with the children about things like bones, music and hugs and together decided that they were all useful and beautiful. The children moved to the Gathering Space to create something that was both useful and beautiful.



We welcomed Geoff Thompson, member of our congregation and lecturer in Systematic Theology as our preacher for the final Sunday in Lent.

Geoff began his sermon *'The Bible is a very disorienting book'* saying *'Opening the pages of the Bible and reading them can be very disorienting'* Using the metaphor of a symphony he explained that *the ways of God are neither easily plotted nor straightforwardly harmonised. The Bible does not present us with a one or even two dimensional, easily reproduced vision of God. Different visions sit side-by-side, some complementing each other, some challenging others.'*



He then turned our attention to Isaiah and the disorienting questions raised for the people of Israel through their experience of exile. Geoff commented *'The faith of Israel as we observe it in the Old Testament is a faith of strikingly resilient hope, an against-all-odds kind of hope. ... There is a vision of God who liberates, but it is a vision that is always being stretched, expanded and refocused.'* He explained that this revision of God continues in the New Testament using the story of Mary wiping Jesus' feet as an example. And in our time Geoff invited us listen to the voice of Pete Buttigieg, candidate for the President in the USA, about whom Jim Walls, editor of Sojourners magazine says *'A whole new and fresh conversation about religion and politics has begun in this election season ...'*



Geoff concluded by affirming that through the season of Lent *'The Christian tradition has never allowed the hope and victory of the resurrection to drown out the cross. ... Our willingness to pause during Lent will be a measure of our willingness to perceive the ever new – sometimes odd, disorienting and strange – ways of the living God.'*

Andrea Alvis offered our [Lenten Listening](#) speaking of the work of [Love Makes A Way](#), a group which practices non-violent direct action in support of Asylum Seekers. Members of our congregation belong to this group and regularly participate in vigils and peaceful protests. Phil Hudson, a member of LMAW and Brunswick Baptist wrote *'Five Years'*, a song which honours the struggle of the people detained on Manus and Nauru. We watched the video of this song. Later Andrea offered us a number of opportunities to support asylum seekers including attending the Palm Sunday rally.



We celebrated Holy Communion.

## Holy Week worship

We carried our Lenten listening through our Holy Week worship. Please see pages 3-9 for stories and photos about each of these services. One of the joys of planning for Holy Week is reflecting on our Lenten worship, the lectionary readings, opening our hearts and minds to the world around us and merging all this with the gifts, thoughts, passions and ideas of our congregation. We acknowledge with gratitude the loan of the painting offered by Graeme Galloway, member of and lead artist with the Olive Arts Collective. We are also thankful to Claire Foley and Valentina Satvedi-Leydon who brought new ideas and perspectives to our planning.

**21/4 Easter Day Psalm 118:1-2,19-24; Luke 24:1-12; Acts 10:34-43**

Ian's Easter Day sermon [Defiant Hope](#) invited us to emerge from the darkness to a place of hope, the light of a new day repeating the heavenly watchers' challenge 'Why do you look for the living among the dead?'

He spoke of the defiant hope exhibited by the young people of Christchurch in response to the massacre at the two mosques there in March, of the Maori renaissance which has given these young people their voice. Showing us a haka they had performed he said *These particular young people are in the street outside the Al Noor mosque where part of that horror took place and they've come in their darkness, immersed in grief to the place of death and there they perform a haka, a ceremonial dance of honour and respect for the dead and a ritual challenge and cry of defiance against the violence and hatred that erupted in that place. He spoke of Jacinda Ardern and her call to her people to live in peace.*



Ian showed us the young people performing the ancient haka 'Tenei Te Ruru', explaining it's origin and meaning, the call embedded within it to 'Rise up'. He likened it to our Easter greeting 'Christ is risen – He is risen indeed'.

Acknowledging that all is not perfect in New Zealand he gave thanks for this nation's gift to us of defiant hope in the face of death, Easter hope. Showing us one last clip of a group of young women performing the haka he concluded *Let's allow these young women to proclaim the Easter gospel to us now in their particular cultural language.*

*Why do you look for the living among the dead? Rise up and follow Christ from darkness into light. Amen.*

The [sermon post](#) on our website includes all the clips shown during the sermon and a translation of Tenei Te Ruru.



Saide Cameron

## > Lectionary

### Easter

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

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
5/5	Easter 3	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)	Ps 30	Rev 5:11-14	Jn 21:1-19	W
12/5	Easter 4	Acts 9:36-43	Ps 23	Rev 7:9-17	Jn 10:22-30	W
19/5	Easter 5	Acts 11:1-18	Ps 148	Rev 21:1-6	Jn 13:31-35	W
26/5	Easter 6	Acts 16:9-15	Ps 67	Rev 21:10,22-22:5	Jn 14:23-29 or 5:1-9	W
2/6	Easter 7	Acts 16:16-34	Ps 97	Rev 22:12-14, 16-17,20-21	Jn 17:20-26	W
9/6	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Gen 11:1-9	Ps 104:24, 34, 35b	Rom 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21	Jn 14:8-17 (25-27)	R

### 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
16/6	Trinity Prv	8:1-4,22-31	Ps 8	Rom 5:1-5	Jn 16:12-15	W
22/6	UCA Anniversary	Deut 30:1-10	Ps 100	1 Cor 3:10-17	Jn 15:1-8	R
23/6	Pent 2 1	Kgs 19:1-4, (5-7) 8-15a	Ps 42 & 43	Gal 3:23-29	Lk 8:26-39	G
30/6	Pent 6 2	Kgs 2:1-2, 6-14	Ps 77:1-2, 11-20	Gal 5:1, 13-25	Lk 9:51-62	G

## > Preaching Plan

May 5	Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>	May 26	Sunny Chen	June 16	Ian Ferguson
May 5	Sani Vaegueta, <b>1:00 pm</b> <b>Commissioning - OW &amp; CYA</b>	June 2	Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>	June 23	Ian Ferguson
May 12	Valentina Satvedi-Leydon	June 9	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost</b>	June 30	Ian Ferguson <b>Reflective service</b>
May 19	Fiona Bottcher	June 9	Ecumenical Service, 5:00pm <b>Pentecost, hosted by BIUC</b>	July 7	Ian Ferguson <b>Holy Communion</b>

## > Special Events

There are so many ways to be involved in the life of our community including: worship, committees, programs, regular events and special events. Read on to find out what's coming up for the rest of the year. Put the dates in your calendars, diaries, devices ...

### May

- **5/5** - Commissioning, , **p.2, 12, 13**  
Peter Blair and Dave Hall will be commissioned as our Olive Way and Children, Youth & Young Adult pastors  
Afternoon tea will be provided after the service.
- **11/5** - [Book Launch](#)  
Julie Perrin will launch her book [Tender](#) which includes stories relating to our congregation.
- **24-26/5** - Church Camp, **p.11**  
This highly anticipated event is a wonderful weekend away at the Adekate Campsite. Definitely the best way to get to know people. You can come for one day, two days, part of a day or the whole weekend.

### June

- **2/6** - Working Bee & Lunch, The Property Committee is hosting three working bees through the year to ensure that our property is kept tidy and well maintained.  
The Community Team will host a soup & rolls lunch. Offers of soups will be welcome.
- **8/6** - World Wide Knit in Public Day  
The Olive Pesto group hosts this very popular special event which invites the wider community into our space. Soup & rolls are served for lunch.
- **27/6** - Worship Workshop 1  
Hosted by the worship and D&E committees  
Traditions & Theology of worship

- **30/6** - Reflective service  
The worship committee invites you into a worship service that offers a gentler more reflective way of worshipping God.

### July

- **7/7** - Lunch at Marcella's  
Marcella's is a delightful restaurant just up the road from the church offering delicious food and a lovely atmosphere.
- **11/7** - Worship Workshops 2  
Shaping the liturgy
- **18/7** - Worship Workshops 3  
How we worship

### August

- *Amazing nothing is booked in the calendar for this month - YET!!*

### September

- **15/9** - Welcoming Ceremony & Pot Luck Lunch  
An opportunity for people new to the congregation to name BUC as their spiritual home.  
After worship we will stay on for a Pot Luck lunch. Depending on the first letter of your surname you'll be invited to bring a main course, salad or dessert.
- BUC Arts exhibition - details to come.
- **29/9** - Reflective service  
Possibly an opportunity to interact with the Art Exhibition.

### October

- **14/10** - Working Bee & lunch  
Our third working bee for the year, this time followed by a BBQ
- **21/10** - Blessing of the Bikes  
Ride your bike or other form of non-vehicle transport, line up for a blessing after worship and head off on a bike ride with BUC Cycle.

### November

- **24/11** - Congregational Meeting & Lunch  
The main agenda item for the meeting is the Election of Elders. Stay on for a lunch of A1 pastries and fruit platters.

### December

*Dates to be advised for these events*

- Carols at the Manse  
Join in an evening carol singing, story telling and supper at the Manse. Make a donation to support the Act for Peace Christmas Bowl.
- Stewart Lodge Carols  
Another evening of carol singing this time with the residents of Stewart Lodge.
- Olive Way Celebration  
Join in the celebration of another year of hospitality offered and received.

## May Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 28 9:30 – Ian Ferguson <b>HC</b>  5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	29 9:30 – Listening Skills Workshop	30 10:00 – Olive Way	May 1 10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Art Stop 12:00 – Community Dinner	2 10:00 – Olive Way	3	4 2:30 – Saturday Coffee
5 9:30 – Ian Ferguson <b>HC</b> 1:00 - Commissioning 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p	6	7 10:00 – Olive Way  7:00 – Mulling 7:30 – Church Council	8 10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Art Stop 12:00 – Community Dinner	9 10:00 – Olive Way	10 10:00 – Out & About	11 10:00 – Olive Pesto
12 9:30 – Valentina Satvedi-Leydon  5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	13	14 10:00 – Olive Way	15 10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Art Stop 12:00 – Community Dinner  7:30 – Worship C’tee	16 10:00 – Olive Way  6:45 – JAM C’tee	17	18 10:00 – Food Co-op
19 9:30 – Fiona Bottcher  5:00 – Indonesian W’p	20	21 10:00 – Olive Way	22 10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts 12:00 – Community Dinner  7:30 – Book Group	23 10:00 – Olive Way	24 6:00 – Church Camp	25 Church Camp
Church Camp 26 9:30 – Sunny Chen  5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	27	28 10:00 – Olive Way  7:30 – Property C’tee	29 10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts 12:00 – Community Dinner	30 10:00 – Olive Way	31	June 1 2:30 – Saturday Coffee