

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

April 2020 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

## > Meditation

### Transitions

It is Autumn! Autumn is wedged between a nice warm summer and a cold winter. It is the season of transition from one extreme to the other. The days are shorter, so it gets dark earlier. There is a slight chill in the air. The sunflowers I planted below our living room and kitchen window are now falling over, their seeds (those not devoured by the Lorikeets) still ripening. The green vegetation of summer is withering, and our winter squash is ready to be harvested. It is a time of transition.

We transitioned from one calendar year to the next a few months ago. We also moved from a season where wildfires raged into a season where a contagion runs amok. It happened quickly. We normally transition from one way of being to another in a rather gentle way, a sort of metamorphosis from one form to another. However, when a virus is at play in our fields, there is no smooth transition. Rather there is chaos and much disruption. Our lives have been disrupted to the point where what we know for certain is no more certain. We are in a season of disruption.

When we move from Summer to Autumn, we know what to expect during the season and the next. We are not sure what to expect during and beyond the season of COVID-19. Things are moving, shifting, evolving rapidly. There are restrictions and there are new rules put into place each day in various sections of this world. There are limits to what we can do and what we wish to do. We are at dis-ease and this season of dis-ease is perhaps an opportunity.

An opportunity to sit back, to reflect who we are as individuals and as a community. The disruption may provide us the time to transition to new ways of being. New ways of being in relationship with planet earth, with each other and most importantly a new way of being within ourselves.

As a community of faith, we have been in transition. The season of Lent has brought with it the opportunity to stop, slow down and reflect inwardly. It has granted us the space to consider where we are, heart and mind and body, in relation to being faithful witnesses to the Gospel. We have asked what is the truth that Jesus calls us to? This we have done individually and collectively as we have drawn closer to God.

It may be hard to see what lies beyond the season of contagion, but not hard to know what lies beyond our season of Lent. There is agony and death and there is resurrection.

In these last few days of the season of reflection, I invite us to look for disruptions where life erupts from death - death of old ways of being. Just as we look for disruption of the soil as germination begins, I invite us to look for disruptions where there is emergence of something new – new ways of being, new ways of living and new ways of relating. This not only as individuals, but as communities.

May God be with us in this season of disruption

May God watch over us in our new ways of being

May God guide us as we await resurrection.

Valentina Satvedi Leydon



## > Worship Calendar

### Worshipping together

We invite you to join us every Sunday Morning via [live stream](#) on Youtube (search Brunswick Uniting Church) at 9:30am for worship! Our doors are closed but our hearts are open and we remain committed to worshipping our steadfast loving God in community.

In the coming weeks and months we will be exploring fun and creative ways of worshipping together, in different places. We'll be trying different approaches, different technology, different ways of leading and participating. Please come with us on this journey as we experiment and learn together.

If you have any ideas or feedback please contact Saide Cameron, [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com), 0407 096 743) or Valentina Satvedi Leydon ([valentina.satvedi@gmail.com](mailto:valentina.satvedi@gmail.com), 0456 099 448).

### April

**Holy Week** this year will be unlike any before. Small groups of people are planning each of the services over the next week. We'll be exploring ways to ensure that we can all be fully immersed into this central story of our faith. An email will be sent out preceding each service to provide you with information about how to prepare.



- Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday on 5th April** - we will read and reflect on Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem.
- **Maundy Thursday, 9th April, 7:30pm** - we will listen to the story of Jesus washing the disciples feet and share a simple meal of bread and wine or grape juice. Have a bowl of water and towels ready in your homes together with bread to share.
- **Good Friday, 10th April, 9:30am** - we will immerse ourselves in the story of Christ's agony, his experience of betrayal, crucifixion and death
- **Easter Day, 12th April, 9:30am** - a celebration of Christ's resurrection. Please again have bread and wine/grape juice to share if you are comfortable to do so.



Please contact Saide Cameron, [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com), 0407 096 743) or Valentina Satvedi Leydon ([valentina.satvedi@gmail.com](mailto:valentina.satvedi@gmail.com), 0456 099 448)

On the **19th April, Easter 2**, we look forward to welcoming Peter Blair as our preacher. Valentina will enjoy a week off after the very intense lead up to, preparations for and celebration of Holy Week.

### May

On **3rd May, Easter 4**, Valentina and Dave, will lead and shape worship as we celebrate Holy Communion in our homes.

On **10th May, Easter 5**, we will welcome Presbytery Minister, Linley Liersch as our preacher.



On **17th May, Easter 6**, we will celebrate Valentina and Yoo Mi's supply ministry and thank them for all that they have offered during what has been an unexpectedly challenging time for our community,



our nation and the world. As for the beginning of the supply ministry our Ministry Team will lead and shape the service.

On **24th May, Easter 7**, we will welcome Ian home as returns from a week's leave after his three months of supply ministry.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on **Pentecost Sunday, 31st May**. Wear something red wherever you are!!



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## > Update on Secondment to Bairnsdale



Views from the manse

Dear Friends,

Hello from Bairnsdale, the Riviera of the South. I came here to help support the local church community in its bushfire recovery, and look at us now! - crisis on top of crisis. My head is full of pandemic response matters right now and it is hard to think of anything else. But of course the fire recovery work goes on.

Some members of Bairnsdale Uniting Church (BUC as they call it!) lost parts of their property in the fires (sheds, fences). For some members the fires brought back terrible memories of losing homes in previous fires. And everyone is impacted in some way. The whole community here faced extreme stress when it seemed that even Bairnsdale itself might be threatened. Many people evacuated, many more prepared to do so. As a result, beneath the surface of country stoicism is a traumatised community.

The Uniting Church here has responded wonderfully hosting community debriefing events and using its on-site opshop to assist many in need. They are doers and carers – much of my role here, therefore, is to care for the carers.

I have led two funerals and been involved in a third in the past two weeks and am currently working with a fourth family whose loved one is close to the end. What the pandemic now makes possible in regard to funerals is a very pressing question here.

My Presbytery role (half my time is with the Bairnsdale congregation and half with the wider Presbytery) has taken me throughout East Gippsland. I am doing a lot of driving, which is strange for someone who very seldom drives at home, but I am enjoying traversing the region down to the lakes, up to the high country, onto farms and into the bush. I am meeting with and supporting local ministers and congregations, and until recently was talking to them and planning with them about things related to bushfire recovery. How things have changed! Now it is all about how to be church in the time of coronavirus.

My arrival here coincided with the rains. As a result, the countryside is lush and green and the burnt forests are regenerating vigorously. Locals comment on it frequently. The drought has been crushing here and people have become used to living in dry, brown, dusty country.

I have enjoyed my temporary dose of country life up to now. As I sit here writing there is a cow paddock outside the window to my right and a blue gum plantation out the window in front of me. I am living in a very comfortable although sparsely furnished manse (I can take what I need from the opshop next door). Beth, who is now working from home, is self isolating with me here in Bairnsdale, so after six weeks of solo living we are enjoying one another's company.

I take my camera with me everywhere, and am revelling in the creative release of photography. See my photos in this gallery which I am adding to regularly: <https://adobe.ly/2uWfDIO>

I have been following the discussions and decisions at Brunswick and am holding you all in my prayers in this most difficult of times.

May God's Easter peace be with you. **Ian**



Yes Beth is really with me!!



You might like to view Ian's Easter Gippsland Easter Reflection '[Can these bones live?](#)' on YouTube.

## > Worship News

### Lent

During Lent we have encountered key figures in the big stories in the Gospel of John and have heard and reflected on some big questions. We have offered these questions week by week to the wider community from the Tower Room Window.



For worship the Sunday Morning Program produced beautiful silhouettes to accompany these or similar questions. See page 6.

First however, reading Genesis on the first Sunday in Lent, we met with Adam and Eve being tempted in the Garden of Eden. In their shame they hid from God and God called to them 'Humans, where are you?'

On the second Sunday Nicodemus asked Jesus 'How can it be?'



By the well on the third Sunday the woman asked Jesus 'Where do I get that living water?'



On the fourth Sunday after the blind man has received sight the Pharisees ask Jesus 'Surely we are not blind, are we?'



### Lent 4 - Live stream and farewell to Ruth & Felix

It's been a big start to the year with commissionings, welcomes and blessings, Fiona's ordination and induction, sending Ian out and reshaping the ministry team all in February. March was comparatively quieter in that respect as we began our journey through Lent. And then as we prepared to farewell Ruth and Felix Tall on 22nd March, Lent 4, we found ourselves facing the need to dramatically change the way we offer worship.

David Cameron very generously offered his skills, expertise and equipment to enable us to live stream worship. Our doors were



open but we encouraged people who were able to access the live stream option. A slight glitch in communication resulted in the recording being posted to a different BUC YouTube channel on this first occasion. This has been addressed and the service can be found by searching Brunswick Uniting Church as planned or you can simply [follow this link](#). An active button is also available from the [Welcome page](#) of our website. We are grateful for all the feedback and thanks offered. You can watch the [worship offered on 22nd March here](#).



With increasing restrictions in place our doors will now be closed and a much smaller group of people will be on site for worship. We will explore using pre-recorded segments and other technologies to ensure that a greater group of people populate the live stream. Thank you to David for the amazing work done so far and to Shawn Whelan and Ray Cameron for their support.

Dave Hall invited Felix to join him for Children's Time on his last Sunday in Australia. Joined by Naomi they helped to tell the story



of the blind man receiving sight from Jesus. Felix invited Ruth to be the blind man. Blind folded, Ruth was invited to find the Pool of Siloam to wash away the mud. Dave offered a photo of Jesus commenting that Jesus was the first person the blind man saw when his sight returned. He gave Felix the photo to take home. After singing 'The blind man stood by the road' with extra verses written by Helen Burnham we came to the time of saying 'Farewell'. Dave offered our farewell to these beautiful people who are much treasured and have featured

so significantly in our lives at BUC. Dave commented on Felix's incredible and unparalleled Bible literacy and how much quieter Children's Times will be now. We watched videos of Ian, Vilma and Richard offering their farewell to Ruth and Felix. It was so lovely to see Felix transfixed by the messages up on the screens. See page 6 for the links to these recordings.



Dave offered Ruth and Felix a gift of memories to take with them on their journey home to Wellington NZ. Responding Ruth said Ten years ago, when I stood up the front as part of the welcoming ceremony for Brunswick Uniting Church, I said that I chose this church for its sense of community, the diverse range of ages and people.

Little did I know how true that statement was. I have seen how graciously and warmly this church has supported many different communities through very difficult times, the Persians, the Asylum Seekers, the LGBTI, and those from Stuart Lodge. Ever since I told the church about Felix, I have also been supported both practically and through prayer. Felix has grown up in this church and it is part of his extended family. He feels so at home here. During this time we have both learnt so much. Just the other day, when Felix was talking about Love, I asked him how he learnt about it, expecting him to say our family. Instead he told me that he learnt all about it at church! So you all must be doing something right if a child's understanding of love comes from you as a community. It is here, that he sees love in action.

The other thing I learnt was that sometimes God calls you just to be yourself. Like the blind man in today's reading, we just need to be the right person at the right time saying the right word. I have seen this so many times here in this church. But I have also seen through Felix that there is no age limit on this calling. Janet (WK) described this to me as the ministry of children. Felix through being himself has enabled other people to have warmer and deeper connections. He has been adopted by the Persian community since he was little and is their dadash (check spelling) Because he is safe and loved here, he has enabled other people to feel the same.

We can only hope that we will find an equally loving and generous community of Christians in Wellington. We will miss you all.

Felix then spoke to us about love, how important love is and how he was taught about love and God at church.

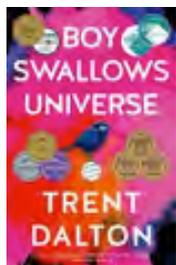


Saide Cameron

## > Book Club News

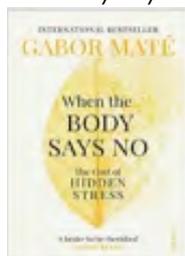
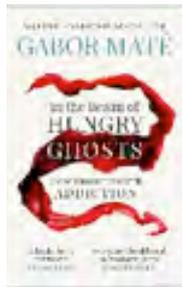
**Book Club at BUC** has been postponed until further notice for the safety of ourselves, our loved ones and communities.

So, we thought we'd share a little of what some of us are currently reading, listening to or viewing.



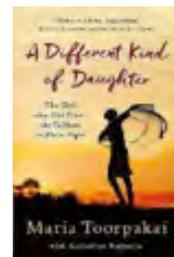
**Jill, Jeanette and Christine** are currently reading, or have just finished, *'Boy swallows universe'*. Jill describes it perfectly - It is funny, confronting, depressing, uplifting, brilliant and quintessentially Australian.

**Jeanette** has also been reading an inspirational medic called Gabor Matè. She loved, *'When the Body Says No: The Cost of Hidden Stress'* and *'In The Realm of Hungry Ghosts'* which is a close look at addiction. You can also find TED talks and YouTube lectures by Gabor Matè online.



**Jill** is finding the need for escapist viewing. She watched the first episode of *'Years and Years'* and it was very good but couldn't bear to watch any more at the moment. She stumbled on an old episode of *'The Games'* with John Clarke the other day – she says, *'It was the emotional equivalent of getting under a comfy doona - just what I felt like. Might revisit some classic period dramas next.'*

**Faye** has been reading *'A Different Kind of Daughter: The Girl Who Hid from the Taliban in Plain Sight'* by K. Holstein and Maria Toorpakai Wazir. This is no ordinary sport autobiography. It's about the tension of living out your dream amidst the dread of the fundamentalist, oppressive Taliban. That Maria becomes the number one female Pakistan squash player is due not only to natural talent and hard work but the courage and doggedness of her father, mother, sister and older brother. A powerful read of courage and resilience.



**Bruce** has been reading quite a lot of largely escapist literature, like George Mann's steampunk Victorian adventures.

**Christine** finally got around to *'The Rosie result'* which wraps up Graeme Simsion's 'Don Tillman' trilogy. With trademark humour and quirky characters it is an entertaining, feel-good, story with characters you want to cheer for. Perhaps the perfect read for stressful times.



Contact Faye or Christine if you would like more information about book club.

Faye: 9379 1317 [faye.findlay18@gmail.com](mailto:faye.findlay18@gmail.com)

Christine: 9386 8919 [christine@hornby.id.au](mailto:christine@hornby.id.au)

## > Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

Hi there BUC folks,

Well, life has changed for all of us in the past month. Pastoral, spiritual and emotional support is my top priority at the moment. Our family is getting in the habit of lighting a candle around the dinner table at night, and naming before God those people who are on our hearts and minds. I'd encourage you to do the same. Despite the physical distancing, it is an opportunity I believe for us to grow closer to one another, to reconnect, to share more deeply and love more fully, as Christ loves us.

We will be offering the chance for a number of CYA groups to connect with each other via Zoom, or another suitable piece of glorious technology. These include Olive Pips, Nourish, Youth Group, Student House, and maybe even Mulling.



### Sunday Morning Program (SMP)

On March 1, we celebrated Holy Communion and explored the story of Adam and Eve in the garden. David Moorhouse and Charlotte Pitt helped our secondary-aged students to clean-up a bit of Brunswick – Warr Park in particular.



On March 15 we re-told the story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, and Felix unforgettably decided to climb down in to the well. He emerged largely unscathed. The youngest group explored living water with Clare K, and the middle group began creating silhouettes of some key characters who shadow us through Lent: Adam and Eve, Nicodemus, the woman at the well.

March 22 was an emotional day. Not only was church as we know it very different, but we also farewelled Ruth and Felix, two incredibly dear members of Brunswick Uniting Church. Watch [Ian's message](#)

[here](#). Watch [Vilma & Richard's here](#).



In the midst of COVID-19, we will be offering some creative ways for your children and teens to continue to explore faith and life. Nourish is being offered via Zoom, with the good grace and story-telling brilliance of Janet Watson-Kruse. Holy Week and the stories of Jesus's betrayal, death and resurrection will be explored in your home through resources I'll send out. There are loads of great resources online, and I'll endeavour to just share the crème-de-la-crème!



### Student House

We enjoyed an excellent dinner on Sunday 15 March, generously hosted by Sheila and Andrew Calwell. The food was superb – especially the desserts! – and we had a time of reflection on the Woman at the well, and sharing how we are going in response to COVID-19.

Could you please keep the students in your prayers, as all of their studies and plans for this year have been significantly disrupted: Cecily, Jason, Quilan, Hannah, Charlotte, Robert, Bridie, Oliver and Jungwoo (Pou).

Please contact me if you would like a listening ear.

Grace and peace



**Dave Hall**

Pastor: children, youth, young adults and families  
0417 310 128

[davehall1373@gmail.com](mailto:davehall1373@gmail.com)

## > Pastoral Care News

### Compassion

The Pastoral Care Compassion Team of Glenice Cook, Leanne Salau, Dani Chamberlain, and PC minister (in Ian's absence) Yoo Mi, have been communicating widely as well as planning as much as possible to hold all members of our community in love and faith during these times of uncertainty.

Things are changing daily, and so we have sought and continue to seek your help in ensuring we all remain connected and supported during this time. (Please see the Pastoral Care notices seeking your help below)

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost a loved one during this time and have been unable to arrange a funeral due to needing to be in self distancing for health reasons.

We are also mindful of members who have returned/ or are about to return from travels and need to quarantine for 14 days. Phone calls, emails and offers of shopping have been provided by our wonderful BUC community.

There are also some members of our community who for various reasons are needing to physically distance themselves at this time. When we are aware of this situation we are checking that they have the supports they require and providing various forms of PC when / if requested

Glenice Cook 0414319649 continues to provide a special aspect of our Pastoral Care by coordinating our Prayer list. Please do not hesitate to ask to be placed upon the list

The Pastoral Care Compassion Team hope you will feel connected and supported in numerous ways and encourage you to use programs such as WhatsApp to keep in contact with each other. We are mindful of those that do not have internet or utilise social media, and so are also exploring how we maintain regular contact with this group.

Please do not hesitate to contact Gwen Arnold on 0413047938, email [gwenarnold@hotmail.com](mailto:gwenarnold@hotmail.com), or Yoo Mi on 0450767645 if you, or someone you know, have any particular pastoral care compassion needs during this time.

**Gwen Arnold for the PCC Team**

### PCC Notices

BUC – Pastoral Care Teams are Seeking Your Help....

It is important BUC continues to live as a faithful and hopeful community during this uncertain time, expressing God's love for all with a spirit of grace and compassion. As a community, it is important that we all feel we belong and we are cared for, whilst we are unable to meet face to face in the various activities normally happening at BUC and in the wider community

For us to feel connected, we all need to play our part in caring for each other. The Pastoral Care Compassion Team, are therefore requesting everyone to consider how we build up all our "communities of care" within BUC. That is, making the most of the groups, relationships and contacts that already exist among us. So, we're asking everyone in our BUC community to:

1. reflect upon who their groups, friends, and contacts are at BUC, and
2. approach those networks of people so that communities of care can be established.

All committees and groups within the BUC community are being asked to keep in regular contact with members. If/when a member requires more pastoral care than the group members are able to offer, the Pastoral Care compassion team will be notified and they will endeavour to coordinate assistance from volunteer lists.

We are also working on systems to ensure that no-one "falls through the cracks." If you are not involved in any committees or groups, or know of someone who might be at risk, please speak to, or make contact with Gwen Arnold – Pastoral Care Church Council Rep (0413047938, [gwenarnold@hotmail.com](mailto:gwenarnold@hotmail.com)), or Yoo Mi our Pastoral Care minister during Ian's absence (0450767645).

### Volunteers needed

A BIG Thankyou to all those who have made contact and offered volunteer support in numerous areas at this time.

If you haven't responded yet and you are available to assist in the vital Pastoral Care of our wonderful community we'd love to hear from you.

Please let Gwen (04130479, [gwenarnold@hotmail.com](mailto:gwenarnold@hotmail.com)) know if you would be available to assist occasionally in:

- Phoning a member of the BUC community
- Emailing a member of the BUC community
- Posting a card or letter to a member who doesn't have internet or a mobile phone.
- Doing an occasional shop for someone
- Dropping off a food box or similar to a BUC members doorstep (supplied by PCC Team)
- Cooking and dropping off a meal to someone
- Visiting a BUC member (only when appropriate)
- Assisting others with livestream and other technology

Thank you

Looking forward to hearing from you with your offers of support.



## Hospitality

During these times of personal distancing the Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC) Hospitality team (Jane Allardice, Ray Cameron, Sheila Calwell, Graham Lawrence, Clare Keogh and Michael Rigby) is working towards keeping in touch with those of you who are new or newish to BUC. We can do this by phone, email or the BUC Facebook page. Please contact one of us on the Hospitality team if we have not already contacted you and if you wish to touch base or have a chat. We continue to extend to you a warm welcome.

Jane Allardice

## Community

Last month I started this news section with these words *'We've already gathered in lots of ways this year with lots more opportunities to come.'* And now so much has changed. The two big events coming up were to be the Good Friday Hot Cross Buns and Soup lunch and the Church Camp. So rather than completely let these gatherings go see below for some ideas. Meanwhile enjoy the story of our last big community gathering.

### BBQ & Pool Party

Wayne & Susan Matthew's opened up their home to our community for a wonderful party on 29th February. Some brave souls enjoyed a swim in the pool even though (and I can personally vouch for this) it was very very cold (and I didn't warm up at all!!). Others enjoyed a game on the tennis court and some lucky people were invited to explore Wayne's 'Man Cave'. The BBQ was delicious with all dietary requirements generously met. Delicious salads and desserts were provided by guests which mean that we all enjoyed an abundant and nutritious feast made even more delicious with iccream provided by the Icicle Tricycle (thank you Alistair). After the meal it was time to dance with covers band 'Learning Each Others' Names'. A fabulous event. Thank you Wayne & Susan for your hospitality. Thank you Alistair, Courtney, James, Steph and Joel.



### Good Friday Lunch

After worship on **Good Friday, 19th April**, we usually gather for hot cross buns and soup. This year we will all be at home.



Here's a suggestion - take the opportunity to make a big pot of your favourite soup and have some hot cross buns ready. Then gather around your family table, eat, enjoy and take a photo or two. Dave Hall and Amelia Ware are exploring a platform for



us all to easily share our photos - more details to come. Ray and Alistair will be ready to go again next year.

### Church Camp

We've rebooked camp for **23rd-25th April 2021**. However we don't want to totally give up on the weekend we set aside on 22nd-24th May. Courtney Rohde, Shawn Whelan and Saide Cameron will be developing a virtual camp day for 23rd May - a day of shared activities, recording what we do and sharing our experiences via social media. This is a very early concept and we welcome any ideas or suggestions.



We welcome any suggestions for virtual gatherings. Contact Saide ([saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com), 0407 096 743).

Saide Cameron

## > Communication News

The Communications Team is committed to providing up to date information about how we are responding to the restrictions in place to restrict the spread of the Corona virus. We encourage you to remain connected via or all any of the following means:

### Website

The website [Welcome \(home\) page](#) has been updated with links to the worship and pastoral care pages available at the very top together with a button to access the live stream via YouTube.

This information is repeated here (*just so you know what to look for when you next visit our website*):

### BUC responds to COVID-19

- [Worship](#) will be [live streamed](#) on Sunday morning at 9:30 am.
- [Pastoral Care](#) will be offered in a variety of ways during this time.
- Our [Olive Way](#) and related programs are being reshaped to offer care and connection in new ways.
- The [financial impact](#) is serious, and we're asking everyone to set up [direct giving](#).
- We continue to explore new ways of being God's people and engaging in God's mission in this difficult time.

For more information, click on the above links and keep up to date through the weekly Olive Press (available below).

Any new updates will also be highlighted in the 'Our Stories' post located at the bottom right hand corner of the Welcome page or in the bottom right hand section of [Sermons & Stories](#) - Our Stories (if you are viewing via a desktop computer) or simply scroll down using other devices.



### Olive Pages

The Olive Pages (Directory of contact information) was emailed and posted last Sunday. If you have not yet received a copy please let me know.

### Real Estate Board

A board has been requested and is now displayed at the front of the church informing the wider community of our intention to live stream. Information is provided at the bottom of this board about Holy Week. I believe there will be scope to request stickers to provide ongoing up to date information. Our thanks to Nelson Alexander Charity for getting up this board up for us with only three days notice.

If you have any questions, comments, feedback, concerns about our communication strategies please contact Saide Cameron, Communications Convenor, 0407 096 743, [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com) or Shawn Whelan, Church Council Communications Liaison, 0418 613 898, [info@shawnwhelan.com.au](mailto:info@shawnwhelan.com.au)

Saide Cameron

## > Culture of Safety

### Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

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

## > JAM News

### From the committee

We met for a delicious dinner at Ann Soo's home on 19th March.

#### The Olive Way

We discussed what measures needed to be put in place to ensure that the Olive Way program could continue to operate noting that the volunteers were keen to keep providing hospitality and community to regular and new visitors. We noted a substantial increase in numbers possibly due to the closure of libraries. Peter had started the process of cleaning and sanitizing all the furniture and volunteers were called to assist with this.

And then less than a week later increased restrictions were brought in and the decision was made to close the program. Please see Peter's story on page 10 for all the details.

Discussions about the kitchen project are ongoing. A report was provided by Haptic Space on 31st January in which 10 recommendations were made to address the issues of concern. Of these five have been selected by the Olive Way Steering Committee as priorities:

- remove fridge, enclosure and curtain rail,
- install new under bench bar type fridges etc,
- relocate microwave and consider new smaller model,
- install handwash sink closer to the kitchen entry and
- paint the whole OW space.

It is, of course, unclear when this work will progress.

#### BUC Arts

As noted on below the Olive Arts program is currently closed with art packs having been distributed to artists. The ArtStop program has provided a similar service to all their clients.

The Olive Pesto is on pause with members continuing to connect in other ways to share their art & craft adventures.

Other programs - Go Paint the Shed and Freedom through Movement - are similarly paused.

The committee will be meeting to discuss the creation of an online community art exhibition. More news in the Olive Press soon.

Meanwhile if you would like some ideas for creating art in this strange time we are now inhabiting please contact Ann Soo, ([annsoo11@tpg.com.au](mailto:annsoo11@tpg.com.au), 0422 842 244)

#### FUNdraising



Thank you again to Wayne & Susan Matthew for hosting the BBQ & Pool party on 29th February. Who would have known that this was likely to be our last big community gathering for the year. We raised \$187 for the 'Go paint the shed' project and \$302.40 for bush fire relief.

If you have been filling an envelope at home to support the Synod of VicTas [Lenten Offering Appeal](#) you are invited to deposit the money you have set aside directly to our church bank account (Uniting Church Brunswick, ANZ Bank Brunswick, 013-236 8687863) identified as Lent Offering or via the information provided in the link.

We look forward to hosting a really really BIG event when we are once again allowed to physically gather together.

#### Food Co-op

The Food Co-op is currently closed.

#### Climate Action plan

Work on the Climate Action plan is continuing. Please note the timeline on the previous page. We look forward to the virtual reflection on the plan over what would have been Church Camp weekend, 23rd-24th May.

The JAM committee will continue to meet mostly likely via Zoom.

**Saide Cameron**



#### Olive Arts Collective

The Olive Arts program is in recess for now. Artists were offered art packs to take home at the final session on Wednesday 18th March. We are staying connected by email and sending each other our visual art works to ground and fuel each others creativity during this time.

If anyone from OAC would like to add their email can they please let me know. If you would like an art pack or know of someone who would benefit from one please contact Ann Soo, ([annsoo11@tpg.com.au](mailto:annsoo11@tpg.com.au), 0422 842 244).

## From the Olive Way

We have a guest at Olive Way who eats a lot. It's ok, we don't mind. But there are other guests who like to complain about it. We've done our best help draw his attention to it but I doesn't seem to make much of a difference. He just happily fills his plates and returns every 10 minutes or so for more.

As most of you know Olive Way has had to go into recess during the course of the pandemic. This decision came after much deliberation and consideration. Our primary concern is not our healthy eater and where he would be getting his next feed from, but the many homeless people that have been using Olive Way as a place for food and a bit of shelter. These are the ones that will really feel the effects of this nasty little bug, they are the ones I am most concerned about.

Over this past week I have been gradually packing down Olive Way, giving it a clean and hoping that life will eventually to turn back to some sense of normality. Our lives and routines have been disrupted and the status quo has been well and truly ruffled beyond recognition. And that will only continue to change in the days and weeks to come. Nothing is normal now.

The virus is indiscriminate. It has infected prime ministers, politicians, business people, actors, princes, and the ordinary folk going about their lives. It seems ironic that the virus began in the well-travelled upper classes and has only much later affected the poor and lower classes. Nonetheless the poor will feel the effects of this even more than those cushioned by a healthy bank balance. There's no doubt the wealthy too will suffer losses, but a different kind of loss.

Like everywhere else in the country we have been scrambling to work out how we will respond. There are a number of challenges for us. Many of our folk are not contactable and are unable to use the technology required to stay in touch such as Facebook, email and mobile phones. I have been trying to get as many contact details as I can so that at least the pastoral side of things can go ahead as much as possible. People don't stop needing contact once they have been shut in.

But nor do they stop needing food. This has been the most challenging thing to respond to. To that ends we are trying to work with the Brunswick Salvos to find ways we can coordinate this aspect of things. Our partnership has been growing and maturing over the past year or so, and this may well be a great



opportunity to further strengthen it. The wisdom in this is that we will be able to minimise the movement of traffic from our folk, keeping the points of contact down as much as possible. We will be working to support Salvos in this.

Our focus will be maintaining contact with those that are shut in and isolated. This is, once again, made all the more challenging by our people's lack of technical skills or access to technology. However, we will coordinate a pastoral team for those who we are in contact, and hopefully the names and numbers will increase as time goes on.

Our amazing volunteers continue to stand at the ready, willing and able to offer help. They have been resolute in their willingness to continue. But they have also been understanding of the needs to restrict movement and are waiting for this to pass.

It is, for me at least, important as one the key 'faces' of Brunswick Uniting to continually be looking out for opportunities to extend the hand of support (wrapped in protective gloves doused in hand sanitiser though it may be) to those in our community who find help and support in Olive Way. Even if nobody takes up the offer of support, to offer it is important even symbolically. The challenge is to innovate and find creative way to make this happen without the physical space that Olive Way occupies.

**Peter Blair**, Olive Way Pastor

Olive Way mobile: 0404 948 943 (Mon-Fri 10am-3pm)

Email: [buc.oliveway@gmail.com](mailto:buc.oliveway@gmail.com)

## Climate Action Group

The time line for the launch of the plan was discussed by the Climate Action Group in March and it was agreed that the following will be aimed for:

- a) Shawn and Max are presenting a draft plan to Church Council meeting on Wednesday 1 April
- b) Feed-back will be given to this plan and an updated plan will be presented to Church Council meeting on Wednesday 6 May

- c) The congregation will have an opportunity to reflect on the plan over the weekend of 23rd-24th May
- d) Final approval of the plan at Church Council meeting on Wednesday 3 June
- e) Official launch and blessing of the plan on Sunday 14 June

**Richard Arnold**

# Sydney Road Street Party

It all seems so long ago - **Sunday 1st March**, a hot and window day, Sydney Rd. humming with joy and activity. Now our streets are quiet and the weather is subdued mirroring, the ache in our souls. And yet it is still important to celebrate our story. This story is a repeat of the [post on our website](#) from 11th March.



The Justice & Mission committee together with the Climate Action group offered activities to engage people in reflecting on climate change. It was a hot and windy day and people were less inclined to stop this year. Even so we made an impact with some lovely contributions on the rainbow (in response to the question 'How are you responding to climate change?'),



lots of bookmarks and postcards handed out, a lovely presence with LMAW, the excellent addition of the ARRCC tent, an open worship space and the cool relaxing space offered to make art in the youth hall with scones and cold water to enjoy.



Kirsty prepared the signs. Clara and Anye decorated them. They looked great out on the street. Amelia, Maggie and Kimberly created a chalked pathway from the rainbow to the youth hall where Ann, Leanne and Natalie hosted a space where people were invited to create art for climate change. Delicious scones with jam and cream made by Jenny and Saide were on offer.



The bookmarks were made using slices of Ann Soo's paintings created for Richard Arnold's book 'Cradled in the arms of love'. On the back we invited people to visit our earth button. If you would like copies of the bookmarks email [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com)



We prepared postcards for people to sign and send addressed to four different politicians.



Thank you to Richard Arnold, James Thom, Jenny & Colin Hunter, Ray Cameron,

Larissa Baglieri, Julie Perrin, Kirsty Brown, James Clough, Shawn Whelan, Jenne Perlstein, Graham Lawrence, Ann Soo, Leanne Salau, Natalie Papworth, Maggie Haines, Amelia Ware, Philippa Hamilton-Smith, Janet Reus-Smit, Christine Hornby, Abi Benham-Bannon, Kirsty Bennett, Anya Kavansakul, Clara Hall for all your varied contributions.

**Saide Cameron,**

for the JAM committee – Kirsty Bennet, Abi Benham-Bannon, Ann Soo, Leanne Salau, Gwen Arnold, Richard Arnold.

## > Happy Birthday

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



## > Reports

### Church Council

The Church Council held a special meeting on 20th March with the Ministry Team and Supply Ministers, the Congregation Chair and representatives from Pastoral Care, Worship and Justice and Mission Committees.

We discerned the immediate steps that we need to take as a community to protect the health of individuals at worship services and in BUC activities. We are also concerned that we protect the broader community as we try together to prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19.

Our immediate plans were explained in a letter sent out to the congregation from Helen Rowe and James Balsillie, co-chairs of Church Council and also through the Olive Press and our website.

Since that letter was sent further restrictions have been put into place and we continue to support the work of committees and

### Finance Matters

Hello, and welcome to the first edition of Finance Matters, a new occasional column from your Treasurer and Finance Committee!

First, and by far the most important, we are praying for your health, safety and peace of mind in these troubling times. Beyond your personal health, we also know that this Covid-19 crisis is already affecting many people's financial health, and threatening to affect many more.

As you might imagine, it's also having a significant impact on our BUC finances. We're currently losing over \$1000 per week in cash/envelope giving. Income from other sources (like hall hire and interest on investments) is also dropping fast. Meanwhile, most of our expenses continue as normal (although usage-based utility costs should be below budget predictions). See the annotated budget on the next page.

We should be able to cover these losses from our reserves, if necessary, so we don't need to panic. However, the value of our reserves is closely tied to the share market. As you may have seen, the market has already dropped by more than 20% from the start of the year (more than 30% from its peak in late February). While we believe our investments are likely to recover eventually, the effect of taking money out now is to "crystallise the losses" by having to sell our investment units (essentially, like selling some shares) when they are valued at their lowest.

If we can keep our cash-flow going now, this will make a big difference to our future ability to maintain healthy reserves to support our missional work (annual budgets) and maintenance needs in 2021 and beyond.

To put it another way: by saving us from withdrawing from our investments at the worst time, the money you give now is likely to be worth much more (maybe 20-30% more) in the future.<sup>1</sup> That's a great investment!

So, for those of you who can afford it, please keep up your giving to BUC. If you're inspired by the ways we're collectively responding as God's people to this crisis, and able to help offset the income we're losing (from those who can't afford much right now, or who simply can't get it to us), we'd even ask you to increase your giving.

[see copy of annotated 2020 budget on next page]

<sup>1</sup> Assuming, of course, the market does return to normal in a reasonable time – which is what economic history suggests. Discussion of doomsday scenarios will be entertained, but not in this month's column!

individuals are working to ensure that we continue to worship, provide pastoral care and provide connection and care to the visitors to the Olive Way program.

A reminder that: **The Olive Press and website will be our main communication link with the congregation. Please check for updates as they are posted. If you know that a congregation member does not have access to technology, or whose first language is not English, please support them by sharing the information posted.**

We encourage you to remain informed and involved in the life of our congregation and community through these difficult and challenging times.

**Claire Foley**

Secretary, Church Council 2020. 23 March 2020

[foleyclairep@icloud.com](mailto:foleyclairep@icloud.com)

#### Help keep BUC running!

Please give directly to BUC if you can. This could be a regular automated amount (ideal) or a one-time payment that you set up each week. You can easily set up either approach through your online or mobile banking, using these details for our bank account:

BSB: 013-236

Account: 0086-87863

Please write "Gift" or "Offering" in the reference line, so we can distinguish it from other kinds of deposits.

For those of you who need or prefer to put cash aside each week, please keep it in an envelope in a safe place. Let us know, and we can identify a contact person who can collect and bank your offerings from time to time (subject to health restrictions).

Contact any member of the Finance Committee for more information or assistance. Thank you for continuing to support BUC's worship and mission in these challenging times!

**Shawn Whelan**, Treasurer

Committee members - Mal Rowe, Naomi David, Linda Wannan

# Uniting Church in Australia - Brunswick Congregation

## Income and Expenditure BUDGET

### for year ending 31 December 2020

<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ BUDGET 2020</b>	<b>Notes as at 27/3/20</b>
Offerings - plate and direct	167,000	Plate mostly lost, direct at risk
Anonymous Thanksgiving Offerings	30,000	Still hopeful
Donations and fundraising for BUC activities	50,600	Will decrease
Donations, fundraising and appeals for Mission Partners	4,500	Money in/out
Interest on BUC Reserves (excl. JG Fund)	36,250	Set amount based on last year
Interest on IOMF (Interest Only Mission Fund)	31,000	Will decrease (est. 50%)
Property rental income	79,500	Hall hire component (\$14,500) at risk
Student House accommodation fees	51,600	Will decrease
Miscellaneous income incl camp	5,700	Mostly in/out
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>456,150</b>	A
	<b>\$ BUDGET 2020</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Stipends, salaries & associated costs	267,000	No change
Other committee exp., incl Olive Way and camp	53,310	Some reductions e.g. camp
Donations paid to mission partners	5,000	Mostly money in/out
Mission and Service Fund - for wider UCA (incl. UAICC)	36,000	No change
Finance	4,000	No change
Cleaning	13,000	Will be lower
Electricity and gas	16,000	Will be lower
Water	6,100	Will be lower
Council rates	5,000	No change
Insurance	12,000	No change
Property management expenses	2,325	No change
Land tax	7,500	No change
Planned property maintenance	7,350	No change
Unplanned property maintenance	18,000	No change
Climate Action measures (allowance)	10,000	Dep on our Plan
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>462,585</b>	B
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit) for Year</b>	<b>(6,435)</b>	C
	<b>\$ Budget 2020</b>	
<b>"Below the line" items - drawings from reserves</b>		
Planned maintenance - capital items	33,500	Necessary - no change
Merri Project	???	
Olive Way kitchen project	???	
Other	???	
<b>Total purchases from reserves</b>	<b>???</b>	

## Property Committee

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

- A roof has been installed over the BBQ and Lawn mower cage.
- Perspex installed over broken window
- The defibrillator (in the hall) has now been registered on the Ambulance web site.
- The bins placement in the space between the hall and the ASWC is operating well and will continue.
- A blockage at the manse was cleared.
- Loose seal on the oven doors was attended to.
- A quote has been provided for property maintenance reports to be prepared as preparation of the immediate and longer-term maintenance of the church's properties. To be submitted to Church council for approval.
- A quote has been received for the supply and installation of rain heads to the existing guttering system to avoid gutter overflows and blockages.

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

- Agreed to a 3 month trial of the ASWC taking over the management of the compost bins. The ASWC to organise the removal of all but 2-3 bins for their use.
- Awaiting Synod to be part of their trial of services to ensure that Essential Service Measures (ESMs) are undertaken annually and that outstanding items are addressed. We are currently on their short list. This will include addressing the emergency lighting in the church that has failed the run-down test.
- Addressing items raised on the Routine Inspection - 1/278-280 Brunswick Road, Brunswick, Jan '20
- 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.
- Hatch above the east doorway between the church and the Olive Way to be finalised.
- Student House painting quotes being obtained.
- Replace the faulty water tank pump in the south water tank.
- Finalise the repairs of the damage after the break-in, modifications to the hall door lock which isn't working.
- Oversight the installation of a 3-phase power outlet for the Orange Sky mobile laundry service.
- Review the Synod's OH&S document and prepare a plan to align to their requirements. This includes the preparation of an annual Emergency Services Measures report. We are trying to participate in the Synod pilot for this activity.
- Attend to the damaged church laptop that is used for the slide presentation on a Sunday morning.
- Attend to the damaged sound system which is currently has a number of issues, buzzing in the fold back, mixer controllers not operating correctly, wiring causing noises, etc.

**Ray Cameron**

## Worship Committee

We met twice in March and will continue to meet regularly as we explore how we offer worship into this time of physical isolation.

At our meeting on 18th March Kirsty invited us into a time of reflection focussing on the light of a candle which featured a painting from Wes Campbell, a much loved friend and retired minister. We listened to a piece of music to aid our reflection.

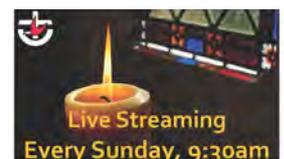
We agreed to focus our attention and energy for this meeting on our plans for worship in response to the Covid 19 restrictions being placed on gatherings. After much discussion we provided a recommendation to Council that we live stream worship on 22nd March with our doors open but offering the encouragement to those who were able to connect via YouTube at home. We are so very grateful to David Cameron, as noted in the Worship News, for all that he has offered to make this possible. It has been a true silver lining in this time of crisis for David to be able to offer such a gift when his mental illness keeps him apart from the regular worshipping community. We are grateful also to Shawn for his support for David as they worked through the various processes that needed to be put into place.

We also discussed the offering of the beautiful Nourish series and recommended that at least the first session on 25th March be offered openly in the worship space. This did not eventuate as a result of increased restrictions being put in place.

We noted in our discussions that the Welcoming Ceremony was cancelled and the Palm Sunday Ecumenical Walk was also cancelled. We agreed that we would still pay our share for the donkey that was booked for the service.

After worship on 22nd March we met again to reflect on our first live stream adventure, discussing what had worked and ways that we could improve the presentation for future services. Since then as previously noted increased restrictions have changed what we will be doing. Please see the Worship calendar for all the details about these changes and our plans for Holy Week worship.

A Real Estate Board has been installed to inform the wider community about how to connect. The Welcome Page, Worship and Worship with us pages on the website have been extensively updated to similarly inform and invite all are interested in joining us for worship.



Connect with us at  
[brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au](http://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au)

**Holy Week worship streaming**  
Palm Sunday  
Sunday 5 April, 9:30 am  
Maundy Thursday  
Thursday 9 April, 7:30pm  
Good Friday  
Friday 10 April, 9:30am  
Easter Day  
Sunday 12 April, 9:30am

**1st March, [Lent 1](#), Genesis 2:15-17; 3: 1-11, Matthew 4: 1-11** Dave invited the children to come and listen to the story of Adam and Eve hiding from God in the garden and to respond to the questions 'Who, Where and What' and to write the details on the posters. Who - Adam, Eve, God, a talking serpent. Where - the Garden of Eden. What - the Tree of Life and the Tree of Goodness and Evil, an instruction and a conversation. Dave explained that this was a mythological story with a big message. He showed us a movie from Cricket Paradise and 'the one place you are not allowed to go'.



Dave offered this summary of his sermon '[Humans, where are you?](#)' The story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden is one of the greatest mythological stories ever written – Fleming Rutledge would say it's the monarch of all myths – but it's also one that has been profoundly misused and misinterpreted, the source of misogyny and damnation by conservatives.



The whole gamut of the human condition is laid bare. So much drama with such a small cast. Pondering the imponderables: why do humans behave the way they do... why is there suffering and death, especially among so many women in childbirth? where is God...? Why do we toil so hard and the land fails to produce? Who is God...?

Adam, in the ancient Hebrew, comes from adamah (ground or soil), and Eve, the Hebrew word for life. So, at its heart it's a story of "earth-life's" interactions with God. Of human-life's identity in the garden of God.

And God's response after we do the one thing we are told not to do (that is, desire to have all of God's knowledge)... God's response is to go seeking out the humans... "Where are you? I desire to be with you, connected to you, tending the garden together."

And our response to God...? In this season of Lent...? Wilderness time...? Well, God, I'm hiding in the bushes, from you. I'm scared God, I'm afraid. I'm not sure I like what you are going to see...

We find ourselves stripped back before God during Lent, nowhere to hide, and yet everywhere to hide. Hiding in our offices, our addictions, our busyness, our affluence, our emails. Occasionally searching for truth, facing up to our shame, trying to accept your love.

We find ourselves stripped back, stripped bare in the wilderness. And who do we find there...? A shabby, grubby, Galilean in to his 39th day of trial, his 39th night of trial. Jacob only had one long night of the soul. Jesus endured 40.

Later we celebrated Holy Communion.



**8th March, [Lent 2](#), John 3:1-21; Genesis 12:1-4a** Valentina invited the children to come and listen to the story of Nicodemus and his conversation with Jesus being read by Ken and Jenne. Natalie and Valentina talked about



the wind, how you can't see it but you can hear it. Valentina remind us that God's love is like the wind, we can't see it but we can feel it, we can know that God loves us.



In her sermon '[How can this be?](#)' Valentina began by speaking of an experience she had when two people knocked on her front door one early Saturday morning and asked 'Have you been born again?'. She went on to speak about the much loved and possibly most quoted verse John 3:16. Referring to Nicodemus and the question he asked of Jesus Valentina commented on the importance of curiosity 'something that can lead to answers and be life giving at times'. She reminded us that Jesus has several conversations in the gospel of John and 'makes space

for relationships as he enters into conversations and then makes room for transformation'. Valentina placed this into the context of where we are now ... 'A world where we are not certain who or what to believe as being true... in such a world God sent God's Son so the world might be saved.' She concluded saying 'As we all walk together towards the cross and the resurrection this Lent, I invite us to remember that we are invited to be born of the Spirit, born from above. Feel the rush of the Spirit this Lent. Feel it blow around us, and whenever you feel it remember that God loves you, God loves us. It is not our doing; it is God who does the loving. Amen.'



**15th March, [Lent 3](#), [John 4: 3-42](#)** Dave invited the children to come and listen to the story of the Woman at the well. Kate, Mal and Bridie shared the story. The children responded again to the 'Who, Where and What?' questions. Who - Jesus, Jacob, the Samaritan woman at the well and the disciples. Where - Jacob's well, What - a conversation about spiritual water with Jesus.

Valentina invited us to reflect on the story of the woman at the well asking '[Who do we need to reach out to?](#)' She commented on all that this story had to offer including that *'it speaks of God's love that flows as water'*. Sharing a personal story of being advised to avoid a particular place she spoke of Jesus having to go through Samaria on his way to Galilee, a place that the Jewish people would normally avoid. Valentina wondered *'In the time of the current pandemic are we othering anyone?'* Taking us through Jesus conversation with the Samaritan woman Valentina spoke of the way in which it shattered social norms and of the gift of living water. Valentina reminded us that *'This living water is not just for the happy times, the carefree times, the living water is also for difficult times and spaces in our life. Whether we are dealing with fear, being disappointed, grieving, marginalized God's love flows like the waters.'* Concluding she said *'As a church, as a neighbourhood, as a community even as a world we perhaps feel low today. I humbly invite you to remember the water that flowed over you at the time of your baptism. ...remember that you, me, us we have been called children of God. The water flows, God's love, living water flows, it flows to heal us, to renew us. ... Our call for such a time... is to offer healing as we care for each other and those on the margins at this time. Love flows like water.... God's love, God's living water is for all.'*



**22nd March, [Lent 4](#), [John 9:1-41](#)** For our very first Sunday live streaming Saide invited those present (an appropriately smaller congregation) and those at home to prepare for worship. Dave invited Felix to come forward with Ruth for his very last Children's Time with us before moving to New Zealand, responding to the story of Jesus' conversation with the blind man,. See Worship News p 3 for the story of children's time and the beautiful time of farewell.

We welcomed Peter Blair, Olive Way Pastor, as our preacher. Peter began his sermon '[Surely we are not blind, are we?](#)', commenting on the difficult year we

have had so far and his loss of faith in humanity and the heightened sense of anxiety in evidence in the community. He said that the passage for today speaks to a deeper problem at the bottom of all this, *'the problem of human sin'*. Peter drew our attention to *"the contest of theologies around this idea of sin"*. Through the passage Peter explored the *'subtle play around the ideas of blindness' and 'seeing'* as they relate to the blind man and the Pharisees. Peter shared part of the liturgy used by the Grace Tree community where he lives, commenting that he likes the section *'We all carry fears, secret shames and unhealed wounds from the generations before us, from our culture, and from personal experience. They tip our hearts off balance, and incline us towards destruction.'* because *'it names not just what sin is, but the nature of sin, what it does'*, the tipping off balance. Reflecting on this he returned to his daughter Ashlynn's question *'Why would God allow the corona virus?'* he said *'perhaps the more important question is why would humans create the conditions in which these things can happen?'* Peter concluded *'It is our task, as Brunswick Uniting, as Grace Tree, as a church, as a people of faith, to work to restore balance to our broken world.'* and commenting on the countless acts of kindness and care exhibited by so many said *'This is the stuff that gives me hope that we can once again find God's balance.'*



**29th March, [Lent 5](#), [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#); [John 11:1-45](#)** And one week later we live streamed with only four people present in the worship space - Amelia Ware, Saide, Ray and David Cameron with recordings provided to shape and offer the liturgy. From his home and assisted by Clara and Patrick Dave invited the children to participate in the telling of the story of Lazarus. Dave concluded saying that this story is a big turning point in the story because in raising Lazarus Jesus engages in what the Pharisees considered to be God's business and that's when they begin the plot to kill him.





In her sermon *'What binds you today?'* Valentina began by noting the rapid pace of change in our world today. She said *'Our text for today is a story where we see doubt beside faith, and we see death beside resurrection, beside life'*. Valentina commented on and explored the parallels between the story of Lazarus from the Gospel of John and text from Ezekiel noting that *'There is death in both these stories and both the stories speak of God's power.'* She reminded us that *'our God who is full of mercy offers hope and lets the spirit loose when it is needed most.'* Valentina commented *'There is much binding in these times, and much to unbind and unravel. Today's texts are a reminder that God unbinds and grants life.'* She concluded *'We as a community of faith are in isolation, are disconnected, separated. We may feel bound and we may feel lifeless, but we are not. We have the power to reach out to each other and to those who are alone and feel lost and separated. And we are connecting with each other and will continue to connect. We speak with each other over phones and via emails and we will keep speaking. We may feel disjointed or lifeless in our gathered worship now, but we are still connected in God and through our faith. The breath of God brings us to life wherever we are gathered this morning and it unbinds us from whatever binds us. Resurrection is around the corner. Amen.'*

Saide Cameron

## > Preaching Plan

April 5	Valentina Satvedi <b>Holy Communion, Palm Sunday</b>	April 19	Peter Blair <b>Easter 2</b>	May 17	Valentina Satvedi <b>Easter 6</b>
April 9	Valentina Satvedi, 7:30pm <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	April 26	Valentina Satvedi <b>Easter 3</b>	May 24	Ian Ferguson <b>Easter 7</b>
April 10	Valentina Satvedi, 9:30am <b>Good Friday</b>	May 3	Valentina Satvedi <b>Easter 4, Holy Communion</b>	May 31	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost Sunday</b>
April 12	Valentina Satvedi <b>Easter Day, Holy Communion</b>	May 10	Linley Liersch <b>Easter 5</b>	June 7	Ian Ferguson <b>Trinity Sunday, Holy Communion</b>

## > Lectionary

### Lent

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

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
25/4	Palm Sunday	Mt 21:1-11	Ps 118:1-2,19-29			P
9/4	Maundy Thursday	Ex 12:1-4, (5-10)11-14	Ps 116:1-2,12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35	P
10/4	Good Friday	Is 52:13-53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25	Jn 18:1-19:42	W
				or Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9		

**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
12/4	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6	Ps 118:1-2,14-24	Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	Jn 20:1-18 or Mt 28:1-10	W
19/4	Easter 2	Acts 2:14a,22-32	Ps 16	1 Pt 1:3-9	Jn 20:19-31	W
26/4	Easter 3	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Pt 1:3-9	Jn 20:19-31	W
3/5	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47	Ps 23	1 Pt 2:19-25	Jn 10:1-10	W
10/5	Easter 5	Acts 7:55-60	Ps 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Pt 2:2-10	Jn 14:1-14	W
17/5	Easter 6	Acts 17:22-31	Ps 66:8-20	1 Pt 3:13-22	Jn 14:15-21	W
24/5	Easter 7	Acts 1:6-14	Ps 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Pt 4:12-14, 5:6-11	Jn 17:1-11	W
25/5	Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or 93	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53	W
31/7	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30 34,	Ps 104:24-34,35b	1 Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21	Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 7:37-39	R

# April Diary

Worship services are live streamed. All meetings and gatherings are being conducted through video conferencing.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 29</b> 9:30 – Valentina Satvedi 12:00 – Worship C'tee	30	31	<b>April 1</b> 6:00 – Nourish 7:30 – Church Council	2	3	4
<b>Palm Sunday 5</b> 9:30 – Valentina Satvedi <b>HC</b>	6	7	8 1:30 – PC Compassion 6:00 – Nourish 7:30 – PC Hospitality	<b>Maundy Thursday 9</b> 7:30 – Worship <b>HC</b>	<b>Good Friday 10</b> 9:30 – Valentina Satvedi	11
<b>Easter Day 12</b> 9:30 – Valentina Satvedi <b>HC</b>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:30 – Peter Blair	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 – Valentina Satvedi	27	28	29	30	May 1	2