

> Worship News

Ordination

On **Sunday 9th February** a joyful congregation gathered to celebrate the Ordination of Fiona Bottcher to the Ministry of Deacon in the Uniting Church. Fiona candidated from our congregation in 2017 following a year as the Olive Way Coordinator.



Ian welcomed everyone to our space. The service was conducted by the Presbytery of Port Philip West and led by Chairperson Rev. Bruce Watson. Rev Robyn Whitaker (Coordinator of Studies – New Testament at Pilgrim Theological College and Senior Lecturer within the University of Divinity) offered the sermon opening with the words *'You are salt'* in response to the Gospel reading Matthew 5:13-16. Robyn said the best use of salt is when it improves the flavour without even being noticed, offering this as a metaphor for ministry. She affirmed Fi's call to be salt in way that doesn't dominate those she comes into contact with. She also affirmed the many gifts that Fi brings - *her capacity for compassion, warm intelligence and her awareness that difference is not a threat*. She spoke of our call to be light to the world and shared a beautiful story of a young boy reflecting light into the room of sick brother. Robyn commented that there are two ways to be the light - to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it. To Fi she said *'be salty and let your light forth because in doing so you bring glory to God'*. And finally she said *'Your calling Fi is to serve the world, and yes serving the church is part of that but like Jesus you are called beyond the borders of the faithful, gathered in buildings like this to serve whoever God puts before you. ... You are called to be their God person. ... You are called to be the precious pinch of salt or the powerful ray of light.'* Robyn concluded by giving Fiona a gift of two types of salt. [Listen here.](#)



Secretary Heather Loader offered the narration of steps after which Bruce affirmed that presentation. In response Fiona offered a snapshot of her encounter with Jesus and the pathway to becoming a member of Brunswick UC. She said that *'it wasn't easy to walk into the church'* and spoke of her first conversation with our then minister Ray Gormann. She said that it her journey from then she has encountered a lot of people with a lot of questions. She said *'I guess that this is at the heart of what my particular call of ministry looks like and feels like to me. There's discernment and grappling and wrestling and above all hope. And I love it. I love walking alongside people and with people, sharing stories and sharing journeys because this is where I've seen glimmers of hope, the breaking in of the kingdom of God, not in the future, but right here and now in very ordinary moments. And so I make this commitment simply because I believe there is a better that's shown to us through Jesus Christ. And I can't think of anything else that I want to do except be a part of that. There's been a lot of surprises on this journey and I look forward to more to come. May God's loving grace break in and surprise us all here today and every day.'* [Listen here.](#) Then followed the formal ceremony of ordination with the laying on of hands, presentation of a Bible and stole and the Deacon badge.





[Prayers of the People](#) were offered by Saide Cameron and Rev. Rachel Kronberger and we celebrated Holy Communion. [Listen to the whole service here.](#)

After worship we enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea in the hall. Thank you to Leanne Salau, Julie McKinnon, Natalie Papworth and everyone who provided the food.



Induction

One week later on **16th February** Fiona was inducted as a Deacon in the Port Philip West Mental Health Ministry at Sunshine Uniting Church. Ray Gormann, minister of the Word at Sunshine UC welcomed us to the service. As with Fiona's ordination the service was presided over by the Presbytery of Port Philip West Chairperson Rev. Bruce Watson.

Offering the sermon Ray Gormann and addressing the challenging readings chosen he commented on being good, being religious saying that Jesus was teaching his disciples about the new ethic, a new way of being. Speaking to Fiona he said that this was what she was called to, a ministry of Open Access where each person is welcomed to access whatever services they need without assessment or appointment, all provided in a safe and supportive environment that facilitates connection and support. [Listen here.](#)

Fiona opened her response commenting on the lovely coincidence of the welcome she received from Ray Gormann when first visiting Brunswick UC. She spoke then of the verandah spaces around the church that allowed her to make the connections that finally made it possible for her to enter the church and affirmed the similar spaces at Sunshine UC. She spoke of the barrier that mental health can create for people in the community. She affirmed the ministry that she is called to and the building of relationships that is possible through this interaction of going out and coming in which gives her hope. [Listen here.](#)

After the service during the afternoon tea the Memorandums of Understanding underpinning this new ministry were signed. Saide Cameron and Kate Scull (BUC congregation secretary and chair) together with Jamie Thom and Ken Morrison presented Fiona with a pampering gift (Himalayan salt lamp complete with tea lights, honey & almond soap and chocolate) from our congregation.



Saide Cameron

Our card to Fiona read: *Dear Fiona, Thank you for sharing your journey to ordination with us. We are filled with joy to have witnessed and celebrated your ordination with you last week. We wish you many blessings as you take on this new, exciting and challenging ministry in our Presbytery. With much love from Kate Scull (Chair) and Saide Cameron (Secretary) on behalf of Brunswic Uniting Church. PS. We hope you enjoy your pampering gifts.*



This week we received a card from Fiona:

THANK - YOU!

A BIG thanks to:

- Ian, Saide, Kate, Jamie and all who were involved in the liturgy
- The wonderful music team - I'm constantly hearing buckets of praise for the music!! ~ And for Natalie's beautiful high notes!!
- Valmai for the gorgeous flower arrangements
- Leanne, Julie and the afternoon tea crew for an amazing spread of delightful treats
- The setting up/packing up team
- The people - everyone was so welcoming and friendly, and many newcomers said: "Fi, I love your church!!" I LOVE IT TOO!!❤

To my dear BUC family,

Thank you so much for all of your love, support and encouragement over the years and for playing such an important part in my ministry formation.

And a very special heartfelt thank-you for all your help and work in making my ordination a very special day I will never forget!

Your warmth and hospitality, and also joy, was noted by many people.

God bless you all!

Love always, Fi❤xx