

# LINK

The next *LINK* deadline is  
Wednesday 14 September 2022.  
Please send your contributions  
to [gkp@netspace.net.au](mailto:gkp@netspace.net.au)

Connecting the people of St John's Elsterwick

August–September 2022

## Minister's Word



In this Pentecost season, in the churches in the southern hemisphere, we see the signs of new life begin to emerge in the garden after the long cold Winter.

Winter is the time when plant and tree growth slow down and seem to wait till the sun and the conditions are right before the buds of Spring emerge. I was struck by the words of indigenous leader, Wangarr Dhamarrandji from Galiwinku Community (in the Bible studies from this year's Uniting Church Assembly) shown in our NAIDOC 12 July service. She spoke of God's love and creation as interwoven: "If we see God's creation looking closer to our surroundings and we see closer to God's love in that creation."

Certainly, the beautiful jonquil flowers by my letterbox speak to me of how God's love emerges after a significant time of being hidden like bulbs under the ground. Spring flowers and blossoms can be seen as vivid examples of God's love. They speak without words of patient trust and bright joy, and invite me and I think, also us, to marvel at the signs of life that the different seasons bring. Perhaps, we might connect our life experiences with the life of plants around us. We too might need time and patience as we slowly emerge, as individuals and as a community from being hidden from view in these last years to re-emerge as a church



community.

Pierre Teilhard De Chardin, twentieth century, French Jesuit scholar and scientist, calls us on our journeys of faith to be patient and "Above all, trust in the slow work of God". His wisdom is expressed here:

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—  
and that it may take a very long time.

And so, I think it is with you;  
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,  
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on,  
as though you could be today what time  
(that is to say, grace and circumstances  
acting on your own good will)  
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit  
gradually forming within you will be.  
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing  
that his hand is leading you,  
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself  
in suspense and incomplete.

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ  
excerpted from *Hearts on Fire*

In this season, let us trust as Teilhard De Chardin invited the "grace and circumstances" that will accompany us as a pilgrim people still on the way, and not there yet! We can also in faith trust we are not alone, no matter what the season, that God is beside us, within us, and leading us.

Peace and Blessings

**Rev Lynette Dungan**

**MINISTER**  
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Venue hire: <https://elsterwick.unitingchurch.org.au/facility-hire/>

# Church Council Report

## July 2022

The following outlines key decisions made at the online meeting of Church Council (CC) on 8 June and progress since then.

### *Supply Ministry until 31 December 2022*

Lynette has agreed to provide supply ministry until the end of December. This has been approved by the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee.

### *Elsternwick Toddlers Playgroup (ETP)*

ETP commenced operations in the Glen Huntly Road property from Monday 30 May. The welcome morning tea on Sunday 19 June was a great time of fellowship between ETP and St John's.

### *Temporary new signage advertising*

for ETP and Momentum Arts, which runs dance and acrobat classes, has been erected at the front of the church.

### *Meetings with Ormond Uniting Church*

Second and third meetings between leaders of both congregations have continued the conversations considering possibilities for future sharing. Both CCs have endorsed a combined service, conducted by Karel Reus, on 31 July at Elsternwick.

### *Safe Church*

Ken Wallis, the Safe Church Officer, advised that training modules are available online.

### **Finance**

#### *Offering and Bequests*

Thanks to everyone who makes a regular contribution either through their offering on Sunday morning or regular direct debits. It makes paying the bills less stressful.

We are also grateful to former members' generosity who have given funds during their lifetime and those who have left money to the church in their will. Thelma Holt, a Sunday School teacher at Orrong Road, left a percentage of the sale of her house as a bequest. An updating of trust laws means that the UC Property Trust is the trustee for such gifts and so required CC to transfer the Holt Trust to them.

#### *Consolidation of St John's investment*

With eight accounts spread across three different UEthical funds, CC approved a plan to consolidate these investments making future management more straightforward.

### **Property**

#### *Glen Huntly Road*

A big thanks to Gary for his work installation of the new digital door closer. Caulfield South Community House (CSCH) booking system is working well. Regular users are Momentum, Tiny Tutus, Tai Chi and Soulsong. Church of Philadelphia have moved elsewhere.

We have continued to profile social justice issues through our noticeboard and grounds.



Jack Elliott (pictured) helped with the Sea of Hands, and the Uniting's Church's vision for future was profiled before the election.

#### *Kooyong Road*

Repairs to storm damaged ceiling in the atrium are complete. New disability ramp and toilet construction, paid for by the CSCH, is underway.

#### *Memorial Peace Garden launch 25 September*

A dedication, connected to the International Day of Peace, is being planned. It will be led by Reverend Philip Liebelt and hopefully involve Caulfield Rotary, Caulfield Garden Club, Sculptor, the Campbell family, Soulsong, Caulfield Primary, and other relevant parties, followed by a shared lunch.

#### *Fundraisers*

Thanks to everyone involved with the Mini-fete and the Election Day Sausage Sizzle. These events were great times of community building. The Mini-fete raised \$613 and the Sausage Sizzle \$903. Donations were made to Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association (BRASA) \$450, and Uniting VicTas \$1050 for their work with asylum seekers.

CC acknowledged these achievements: Sarah Bimbona's work as Chair of an Australian Alumni Association of Uganda who are supporting young, single mothers and their children in Uganda; Shane Dale's CC service for three years; the profile of Elsternwick in June *Newsbeat*.

Next CC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10 August 2022.

**Michael and Cathy**

# Elsternwick at Census 2021



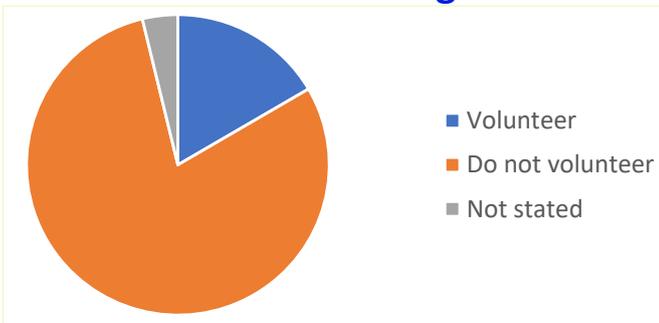
In August last year, we completed our 2021 Census form. The Australian Bureau of Statistics released the first data on 28 June. Some of this data are shown on this page for Elsternwick, bounded by Kooyong and North Roads, Nepean Highway, Hotham and Glen Eira Roads. More details are at [abs.gov.au](http://abs.gov.au)

## Elsternwick: Population 2016 & 2021

2016 population in brackets

- Males **5,594** (4,905)
- Females **6,302** (5,450)
- Total **11,896** (10,355)

## Elsternwick: Volunteering 2021



## Elsternwick: selected medians 2021

Victorian figures in brackets

- Age **38** (38)
- Total weekly personal income **\$1,193** (\$803)
- Total weekly family income **\$3,216** (2,136)
- Monthly mortgage repayment **\$2,447** (\$1,859)
- Weekly rent **\$426** (\$370)
- Average household size **2.3** (2.5)

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## Elsternwick: dwellings 2021

- Separate house 1,896
- Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse 962
- Flat or apartment 2,073
- Other dwelling 45
- Unoccupied private dwelling 649

## Elsternwick: Ancestry by Country of Birth of Parents in 2021, listed in order and over 100 persons

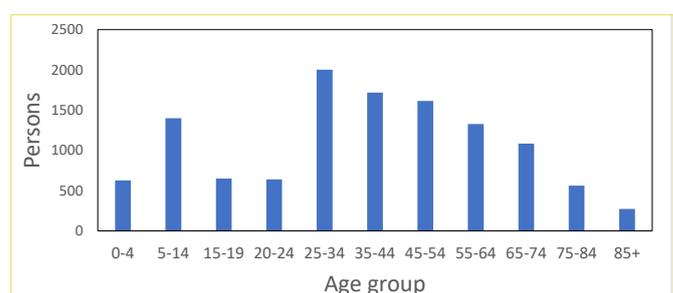
English 3,636, Australian 3,264, Irish 1,583, Scottish 1,119, Italian 636, Polish 593, German 501, Chinese 431, Greek 403, Russian 248, Indian 220, South African 177, French 175, Hungarian 166, Dutch 139, and New Zealand 107.

## Elsternwick: Religion 2021

Top religions in order and with above 100 responses

- Catholic **2,071**
- Judaism **2,021**
- Anglican **639**
- Eastern Orthodox **376**
- Uniting **164**
- Hinduism **157**
- Buddhism **149**
- Presbyterian and Reformed **101**
- No religions so described **5,071**
- Christianity no further details **138**
- Total Christian **3,655**
- Religious affiliation not stated **657**

## Elsternwick: Age Distribution 2021



# Greetings from Ormond Uniting Church



For the past three months, representatives from Ormond Uniting Church and St John's have been exploring our shared interests and opportunities that might arise from them.

We have found the two congregations have much in common, and we have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know one another and to share our stories.

But it has become clear that people from both congregations, beyond those participating in these meetings, also want the opportunity to get to know one another. So, to that end, here are details of two such chances.

## Social gathering

There will be a social gathering hosted by Lisa and Rod Saffin, to which members of St John's are invited. Please join us for soup, breads, savoury and sweet finger-foods followed by tea and coffee at the SAFFINS!

- WHEN: Saturday Night 30 July 6–9pm Soup served at 6.20 pm
- WHERE: the Saffin residence  
10 Albert Road, ARNEGIE
- TRANSPORT: if you need transport, call Ron (0438 404 104) or Lisa (0425 732 430)
- WHAT TO BRING: YOU and yours!
- COST: Zip! Free!! Gratis!! Yippee!
- WHAT TO DO NEXT:  
Let us know you are coming: contact Cate at the Office 0411 958 127 OR email at [office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au) no later than 12 noon on Friday 29 July.

## Shared Worship Service

On Sunday 31 July, members from Ormond Uniting Church will be participating in a shared worship service led by Karel Reus at St John's.

## Introducing Ormond Uniting Church

Meanwhile, Geoff Paterson invited me to write something for *Link*; so, I thought you might be interested to learn more about our congregation, its life, its hopes and dreams.

Sunday worship at Ormond is at 10.00am with approximately 30–40 people attending most weeks. Ours is an ageing congregation, with few children (although we will be having the baptism of the one-year-old son of a former church councillor on 24 July). However, there is a network of young families who remain associated with the church and who meet occasionally for fellowship.

In addition to this network, Ormond has *Bob's Boys* (a monthly Saturday morning men's group); the *Friendship Circle* (a monthly fellowship group when mainly ladies meet on Wednesday afternoons); *Formation Group* is responsible for faith formation and pastoral care and meets approximately every six weeks; *Church Council* which meets monthly; and social gatherings, including evening events, such as the one outlined above, and occasional lunches at varying venues, in addition to several monthly Home Groups.

Much of our time and energy is expended on four specific foci:

- Our building project: we have been working for the last 14 years towards building new office and missional spaces and, last week, received confirmation that our plans have been submitted to Glen Eira Council for a Planning Permit.
- Ormond Learning Hub is an educational hub which offers Biblical and Christian education opportunities for members of Ormond and more widely. Course leader Brad Denniston, a congregation member, holds a Masters' degree in Theology and is an excellent and passionate teacher.
- Asylum Seekers: as well as regularly collecting food for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, there is a widespread interest in and support for asylum seekers.
- The Little Free Pantry (LFP) was initially established by one of the Home Groups. The LFP (located near the North and Booran Road corner) provides food for those who need it. It is managed by the Home Group but receives both cash and food donations from the congregation and the wider community.

Our former minister, Reverend Andrew Boyle, concluded his ministry with us in May. We are now delighted to have Karel Reus working with us half-time. Karel leads worship on the first three Sundays each month and is undertaking pastoral care for OUC. With Karel involved with both our congregations, we feel this can only help us forge closer links between us – something to which we look forward. Blessings!

**Dr Mardie Townsend**  
**OUC Church Council Chair**

# St John's Tennis Club 1912-2022

In 1912, Sunday School Superintendent Mr Alexander Peden Gardiner, seeing the need to accommodate the expanding Sunday School, purchased the block of land on the corner of Foster and Murray Streets. After laying down at his own expense, two grass tennis courts, he most generously handed the block over for Sunday School purposes, church Elders and decision makers of the time.

This has since been of value to building connections within the church and to the community through social events and sport such as tennis.

In the early days and into the 1950s, club membership also required church attendance at least monthly. Over the years, there have been many people connected to the church enjoying the game and more than a few romances formed.

My memories are from the early 1950s to 2000 plus. St John's entered teams in the South Suburban church competitions for many years. The annual awards night was held at the Brighton Town Hall with a dance and supper. Membership fluctuated and was quite low in the early fifties but by 1975 the club entered four senior teams and two under 15 and under 17 junior teams. Nancy Higgins was coach of the junior team and tennis was played in both summer and winter.

The original grass courts were transformed to asphalt and then in 1962 upgraded to *ent-out-cas* at a cost of nine hundred pounds. Club members raised the money by holding theatre nights, car rallies and progressive dinners. Those courts required continuous care and upkeep, watering in hot dry weather, and rolling and bagging after each set. There was also the lawn mowing of nature strips

and around courts. Bruce Lake, Jim Withers, George Carlin and Ewan Withers were tireless workers for many years.

Until 1964, the Club President was always the current Minister but Rev William E. Haddrick declined this position which was then filled by George Carlin who was an elder and remained President until 2004. Beryl Lake was Secretary for a similar length of time and Garry James was Treasurer.

Junior tennis was played on Saturday mornings, Seniors Saturday afternoons in the 50s every other week, to allow social tennis on free weeks. Later years comps were played every week. Mid-week mothers played social tennis with those not playing minding the pre-schoolers. Mid-week ladies comp was weekly and included lunch in the hall. Sunday social tennis was not allowed until 80s or 90s.

Membership dwindled and, in 2019, after exploring options, St John's congregation reluctantly made the decision to sell the Foster Street property. As a result, the Tennis Club closed. Thanks to Ross and Lyn Campbell, Ewan Withers, Desiree Andrewartha and others, there was a lovely celebration at *The Gables* Malvern in May 2022. It was great to catch up with about thirty former members from over the years. Some members joined St John's after closure of clubs at St Stephen's and other churches in the area. St John's have appreciated ongoing care of courts and property with maintenance, lawn mowing and payment of bills.

Best wishes to all for the future. The Toddlers Play Group has moved to the Glen Huntly Road Property.

**Pauline**



*The Gables* celebration in May 2022

# Memoirs of Youth

When I had the privilege of beginning as a student at Melbourne High School in 1949, the seating at the two person desks was randomised. I therefore met my desk partner for the first time: Max Aubrey Procter came from Gardenvale Central School; I derived from the neighbouring Elwood Central School. Best of all was the fact that Max was a keen Evangelical Christian from a strong Christian family. I shared the same faith with him. I marvelled at the providence of God! Max and I became firm friends for all our high school days and for much longer.

He introduced me to a number of functions – notably to his Methodist church in South Caulfield. As God would have it, our family moved into a new house in the same suburb, so we became neighbours as well. Now that I could attend Max's church I was profitably involved with the Christian Endeavour movement (to which I am spiritually indebted), and the Youth Group.

Another introduction by Max was the church cricket team. This pleased me greatly. I remained with the team until it disbanded several years later. Personally, and as a team, we had a number of successes, a few finals appearances, but no premierships. I had the honour of winning the grade batting, bowling and fielding trophies in three different years. Some of our players whom I remember were the brothers Robbie and Graham Nicholls, Mr Norm Gray the young Methodist minister, Richard Bretel with whom I opened the bowling, the late Keith Gray who played in the team before I joined, Paul Simmons, Malcolm McCallum, the brilliant Alan Witt and, of course, our beloved captain, Lenny White.

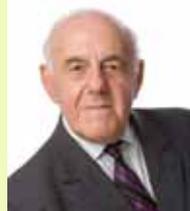
One incident which I recall with mirth: Lenny took off his wicket-keeper's pads and gloves and bowled. I hadn't ever seen him take the ball before – Lenny was a fine batsman. But his slow loopy spinners bamboozled the batsmen. They didn't know whether to go forward or backwards to meet the ball. With all due respect to Lenny, who was a wise leader, he had assessed the situation perfectly. A decent batsman would have hit his bowling out of the ground. In fact a batsman attempted to do this, only to snick the ball to me at slips where I took a doubled juggled catch, laughing at the same time!

Lenny had a few more victims that day.

Another cricket incident concerns Max. If ever there was a cricket enthusiast it was Max Procter. His cricketing capability was average. When he bowled he presented as a tangle of arms and legs. In one match, surprisingly, Lenny gave him a bowl – and he acquired a wicket! Someone said it was probably the tangle of limbs that gained the wicket rather than the ball itself. Needless to say there was great rejoicing by his team-mates that day. Max was a loved and popular man.

Finally, Max and I did our National Service training together, starting with the first intake between January and April 1954 at Puckapunyal, Central Victoria. We slept in adjacent beds. The highlight of this event was the faithful Christian ministry of Welfare Officer Eric Richards and his little family, supported by Campaigners for Christ. It was like an oasis in the desert, as was the ministry of the army chaplains.

**Spero Katos**



Spero Katos is a long-time South Caulfield resident. He is a pastor, pharmacist, cricketer, musician and was an enthusiastic St John's Uniting Tennis Club member.

## Envirotip

About two litres of water is wasted before my water becomes hot. As I use hot water at least four times a day, a minimum of eight litres of water is being wasted.

So I use a bucket in a corner of my shower, collect cold water from the shower and transfer water from sink and basin to the bucket which, when full, is transferred to a watering can and used on my garden.

I also place some water in my washing machine.

I realise having a bucket in the corner of one's shower could be dangerous for people, but some way of collecting the wasted water could be considered.

**Andrea**

# Op Shop Update

## Volunteers

Our small but fabulous team of volunteers has soldiered on very well until recently . . . but now the winter lurgies are hitting and three people are off sick and Kristi has extended time off with a back injury. Some shifts have only two people working, so reducing the increasing pile of donations has been impossible. Please encourage anyone at a loose end to come and join our team.



Gayle and Margaret work three days a week so it's a big gap when they can't make it.

Aaron is now working, and while we miss him, it is great that having an income and not having to continually apply for jobs and cope with rejections, is a thing of the past.

## Sale of the shop

The Trust which has owned the shop for the whole of our 22 years of tenancy decided to sell earlier in the year. The auction on Wednesday 6 July was a slowly contested event. The new owner seems keen for the shop to remain as an Op Shop.



On the morning of the sale, on top of the chaos of prospective buyers trekking through the shop, there was also an extra fire extinguisher inspection, the textile recycling pick up, and relocating a lost rubbish bin. Life is never simple!

## Windows



Our social justice continues to be noticed and prompts some great conversations (as well as sales)!

*World Environment Day* was promoted with a green theme, making suggestions and providing challenges to be more aware of how actions have positive or

negative effects. We encouraged people to carry shopping bags, cutlery, drink bottles etc to avoid single use items; use teapots to avoid un-compostable tea bags; rug up rather than heat up. (We sold lots of blankets and coats!)

We also used it as a time to support *Uniting's Winter Appeal*. The window



was full of red, yellow and black as we alerted people to National Reconciliation Week. During NAIDOC Week we had a strong red and black theme as well as playing music by many Indigenous artists to highlight that non-Indigenous Australians need to work with First Peoples to promote justice, equity, and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights.



During Refugee Week we challenged people to think about what they might take if they were forced to flee from their home in a hurry. It was amusing to note that someone thought we were being evicted while another focused on the colours of a particular football team!



## Donations

Although sales have not returned to pre-COVID levels, we were able to

revise our budget figures and make a couple of donations before the end of the financial year.

We supported Uniting's wholistic support work with families and individuals in crisis.

We supported Refugee Legal's Matching grant appeal meaning our donation was doubled in value. The group advocates for the granting of permanent visas and abolition of temporary protection visas.

**Cathy and Alex**

St John's Church Council meets on the second Wednesday of every second month. Next meeting is on 10 August.

# Church calendar

The months of August and September fall into the **After Pentecost** Lectionary period. This is 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 the feast of Christ the King on 20 November.

The Lectionary does not list any Special Days although these exist in the Christian calendar.

The *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) from the Church of England lists a number of days in August and September. One is, for example, Lammas Day, or Loaf Mass Day on 1 August.

On Loaf Mass Day, it is customary to bring to church a loaf made from the new crop, which began to be harvested at Lammastide, which falls at the halfway point between the northern summer solstice and autumn September equinox. Christians also have church processions to bakeries, where those working therein are blessed by Christian clergy.

This is seemingly a parallel with our Harvest Festivals which were held around March when our foods were more constrained by the seasons. In our more globalised world, a time in our calendar to commemorate the people and crops is still appropriate.

BCP sets down these readings for 1 August: Proverbs 27: 1–23, 28: 1–15, Romans 2: 1–17 and Matthew 16: 24–17:14. It also lists a number of days commemorating different saints including St Bartholomew (24 August) and the Feast of St Matthew on 21 September.

*Uniting in Worship* from the Uniting Church, has a section entitled "A Calendar of Other

Commemorations" which "calls to mind a representative group of people from the communion of saints . . . who have been servants of Christ in their day and generation."

Selected names and dates for September are Albert Schweitzer Alsatian-German polymath as a Christian pioneer (4 September) and Dag Hammarskjöld, former United Nations Secretary-General as a faithful servant. The allocated day is the 18 September when Mr Hammarskjöld's plane crashed in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia).

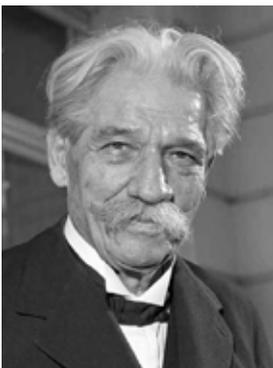
## Social Justice Calendar

### August

- 4 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day
- 6 1945: Destruction of Hiroshima by Atomic Bomb
- 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 9 1945: Destruction of Nagasaki by Atomic Bomb
- 12 International Youth Day
- 19 World Humanitarian Day
- 22 International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 26 2001 Tampa Affair and Rescuing of 433 Refugees
- 30 International Day of the Victims of Forced Disappearances

### September

- 1 World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation
- 1 Beginning of National Biodiversity Month
- 1 Season of Creation (to 4 October)
- 7 National Threatened Species Day
- 8 R U OK? Day
- 8 International Literacy Day
- 10 World Suicide Prevention Day
- 15 International Day of Democracy
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 25 Social Justice Sunday
- 26 International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons



Dr Albert Schweitzer and Dr Dag Hammarskjöld  
Both photographs Creative Commons

# Jack Campbell Peace Garden

10 July 2020



10 July 2021



10 July 2022



The Jack Campbell Memorial Peace Garden will be dedicated on Sunday 25 September 2022 as part of the the morning service, followed by a light lunch.

## Bible word

### *Scapegoat*



The scapegoat was the second of two goats for which lots were cast on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16: 8). The Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the Jewish Calendar, was an annual Hebrew feast when the High Priest offered sacrifices for the sins of the nation , observed

on the tenth day of the seventh month (Leviticus 23: 27).

The first goat was sacrificed as a sin offering for the people. The priest laid hands on the second goat, and praying over it, confessed the people's sins and sent the goat, now bearing the sins, into the wilderness to Azazel.

One interpretation is, "the goat that departs," or "the escaping goat," hence the English word, *scapegoat*.

Azazel is thought to mean angry god. The ritual was to send the evil of sin back to a place of evil or to a place where it could do no harm. Others say the sins are being returned to the devil.

It could be said that Jesus was used as a scapegoat, where, 1 Peter: 2:24, "Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. It is by His wounds that we have been healed."

**Patricia**

Image courtesy of the RSPCA

## Sign of the times



Frosty mornings

## Jok family visit



Michael, Mary and Tot with Jane.

Mary, Michael and Tot recently paid a visit. Michael has a basketball scholarship in America and is halfway through his Masters in IT. Tot, now called Tim, is working locally but hoping to get a basketball scholarship to study occupational therapy also in America. They have a lot of memories of time spent with their homework helpers and St John's.

Mary is working and has four grandchildren. For more details on Michael, see <https://tinyurl.com/36ccpby6>

**Alex**

# From the wider church

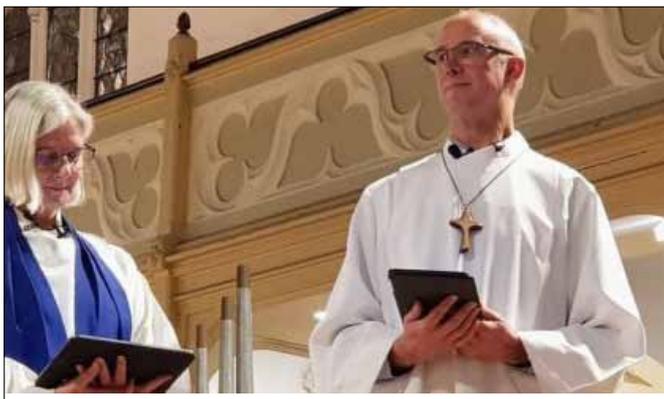
Snippets from the Uniting Church Australia-wide

Synod 2022



The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania commenced on the evening of Thursday 30 June and continued over three days at Box Hill Town Hall. This Synod was the first face-to-face meeting since 2019.

The Opening worship service at Wesley Church, Melbourne officially opened the 16th Synod Meeting, farewelled outgoing Moderator, Denise Liersch, and installed the Reverend David Fotheringham as the Moderator from 2022 to 2025.



The Opening Worship included two musical pieces written specifically for the Synod Meeting. *Arise*, based on the Song of Solomon, was written by Rev Jennie Gordon, while *Come with me my love* was written by Rev Malcolm Frazer, and arranged by David MacGregor.

## Day 1

Following devotions and reports, Rev Dr Mark Lawrence gave his General Secretary's Report. Dr Lawrence thanked Synod staff for their efforts while dealing with COVID impacts.

Dr Lawrence further observed:

I consider that we are at a time when, as an expression of being a pilgrim people, we need to more purposely consider our resources for being a community of people who worship, witness, and serve.

We need to continue to modify how we organise ourselves and share resources

to build up the whole, to be an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself.

The outgoing Moderator also noted COVID's impact. "In some ways we are not the same communities we were before the pandemic, yet through so many challenges we have seen the spirit at work in so many ways."

## Day 2

The main agenda item was consideration of Tasmania's End-Of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) legislation and reports from the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congresses in Victoria and Tasmania.

## Day 3

Part of the day was receiving feedback from Working Groups held on the preceding two days. Some feedback included:

- The need to provide worship in different places other than just on Sundays, fully utilising modern technology.
- Resolving some of the competing priorities between the needs of property and mission.
- How we can best support non-geographical and online communities.
- Leaving behind the idea that the Church's mission is to preserve and protect – in short, to survive.
- Desire to celebrate and honour what is being done.
- How Synod can further support congregations.
- Providing a central resource for story telling about initiatives in congregational life and witness.
- Celebrate *endings*, such as the closing of a congregation, and not make them negative events.

These links provide more details:

## Opening Night

<https://tinyurl.com/zptuzsj8>

## Day 1

<https://tinyurl.com/y4z83tem>

## Day 2

<https://tinyurl.com/yvvyt945>

## Day 3

<https://tinyurl.com/ycxdph96>

*Continued on next page*

## Joint Resolution on the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

On the 29 May, eighteen leaders from Christian, Jewish and other religious communities met and signed the following resolution. President Reverend Sharon Hollis represented the Uniting Church.

On this day in 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples came together at Uluru and asked Australians to walk with them towards a better future. Through the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Indigenous Australians asked for constitutional recognition through a constitutionally guaranteed voice in their own affairs. As leaders representing diverse religious communities, we declare our support of the Uluru Statement and its call for a First Nations Voice guaranteed by the Constitution. We endorse this reform as necessary, right and reasonable. Indigenous Australians must be now afforded their rightful place in the Australian Constitution. There have been many processes and much work completed. The one thing left to do is let the Australian people have their say. We call on political leaders to take immediate bipartisan action to hold a referendum on a First Nations voice.

### Uniting Church reaches 45

Reverend Sharon Hollis hosted a five-minute video to mark the church's 45th anniversary.

View the President's message here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/bdh9abf4>

**Geoff**

## Ministry of flowers

from Patricia



Link August–September 2022 page 11 of 15

## Can you help?

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work nor do they have income support.

To assist, BRASA\* is asking for donations of these goods:

- Tuna in oil 400g
- Honey small bottles
- Tomato paste
- Pickled vegetables max 750g
- Peanut butter
- Sweet and savoury biscuits
- Laundry powder 1 kg max
- Toothbrushes
- Disposable razors

Note: we do not need baked beans, tinned soup or tinned spaghetti.

Please leave your donations in the labelled box in the East Room, **or** phone Alex on 0412 513 239 for pickup **or** deliver goods to 12 Burrindi Road, South Caulfield.



\* Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association  
[baysiderefugeesupport.org/](https://baysiderefugeesupport.org/)

**Alex**

## Diary date

### Asylum Seeker Fundraiser

### Sunday 2 October

Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association (BRASA) and St John's are planning a High Tea fundraiser with **Asher Hirst** speaking about the plight of asylum seekers stuck in limbo in Indonesia.

Funds raised will go towards a Learning Centre which provides for families to help them develop skills so that they will be employable if/when they are resettled.

See Alex for more details.

### International Day of Peace 2022

The International Day of Peace, celebrated annually on 21 September, is devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The 2022 theme is

**End Racism: Build Peace.**

For more details go to

<https://tinyurl.com/27p9n978>

The editors, Andrea, Patricia and Geoff, thank all contributors to this edition, including Colin for proofreading, and invite *you* to contribute to the next issue.

# NAIDOC Week activities

During NAIDOC Week, several members of St John's attended a launch of a booklet and workbook prepared with the men of Galiamble, an Aboriginal-controlled drug and alcohol recovery service based in St. Kilda.

The launch was at the St Kilda Town Hall and was well attended. The resources evolved from a PhD research project undertaken by Greg Smith in partnership with the Galiamble community.

A 56-page booklet will let men know about what becomes possible through involvement with Galiamble. It is based exclusively on direct accounts provided by men involved with Galiamble, collected over five years.

Archie Roach gave his encouragement for the booklet, which opens with a quote from his autobiography *Tell me Why*:

"*Hope: It came into my life again at Galiamble,*

*first as a trickle and then as a gush.*"

The booklet includes full colour photos of artwork produced by men at Galiamble. It will be distributed to all Alcohol and Other Drugs (AoD) workers and health services.

A workbook will assist AoD workers, community services, social workers, and psychologists to prepare for respectful practice with Koori peoples, and wherever there is *cultural difference*.

It may be a significant contribution to education and training, with a number of Aboriginal-controlled organisations and a university interested in a trial.

Speakers included Uncle Les Stanley, and other men who have gained from time with Galiamble to become leaders in their communities.

**Greg**



Uncle Les addresses the St Kilda Town Hall gathering



Left to right: *Thinking of coming to Galiamble?* booklet; *Respectful Practice* workbook; Greg addressing the gathering and providing a music offering.

## Prayer

Storyteller God  
whose manuscript is all around;  
beside, behind, before and within us,  
forgive us for forgetting,  
for thinking that we've heard it all,  
for being closed to new stories  
and new understandings of old stories.

from Jennie Gordon, Figtree Worship Resource, Gippsland  
Presbytery <https://gippsland.unitingchurch.org.au>

Forgive us for believing  
that we can define people  
with a single story;  
refugee, homeless, offender,  
black / white,  
rich / poor,  
boy / girl ...

Grow us into the complex  
stories  
of each other's lives, and our  
own,  
and help us to read them with  
compassion,  
empathy and care.

As Jesus did, so will we. Amen.

# Skilling Young Ugandan Mothers

Sarah Bimbona has recently let us know of a new Australian Alumni Association of Uganda (AAAU) project to aid the Wakisa Ministry, a pregnancy crisis management centre.

Most of us know Sarah from her time worshipping at St John's while she completed her PhD at Monash University Caulfield. Sarah now lectures in the College of Business and Management Sciences at Makerere University in Kampala. She is also Chairperson of AAAU whose project is committed to skilling teenage mothers to help them support their babies.

While launching the project, Sarah stressed that young mothers, aged between 10 and 17, tend to suffer a lot after delivery due to lack of financial support. These mothers are very young to look after themselves and their babies.

Sarah explained the program, which brings together former students of Australia with support from the Australian Government, intends to promote dignity and self-esteem of young girls in crisis pregnancy while addressing their emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing.



Sarah left admires some of the products made to help support the young mothers

"We want to give them skills in tailoring, weaving, cookery and crocheting, among others such that by the time they leave this home, they can take care of themselves and their babies."

"These teenage mothers are from various religious backgrounds and different regions across Uganda, they are provided with temporary shelter, counselling and care

services, growth opportunities and are equipped with life and vocational skills to transform their lives," Sarah said.

The Centre is facing difficulties and plans to have its own Health Centre with health personnel to support the delivery of these girls.

Vivian Kityo, Wakisa Ministry founder, observed the admission rate of girls to the Centre is high. She appealed to the "well-wishers for support so that teenage girls can be supported to deliver properly before being integrated back into their families."

**Geoff**

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/y2n9rjfc>

## Presbytery Report

The Presbytery of Port Philip East met by Zoom on Wednesday 22 June 2022 with 71 present. I attended as the St John's lay representative.

The meeting opened with Acknowledgment of Country, the Matthew 28:16-20 reading, and devotions.

The meeting then heard of a new publication entitled *Meeting together*, which considers healthy practices in church councils, committees and groups. The book is available at <https://tinyurl.com/2k4z55j4>

Presbytery Minister Dr Craig Mitchell then spoke about the *Meeting Catalysts* initiative which seeks "people who have the passion, drive, vision and initiative to foster new communities of faith – perhaps in a home, a cafe or pub, an interest or social action group, or among a particular cultural group." More details are at

<https://tinyurl.com/ybrtn9nb>

The Presbytery approved two applicants to be accepted as a Candidate for Minister of the Word.

My more detailed report is in the East Room.

**Geoff**

# St John's: the early years

The first Presbyterian service in the Caulfield Shire Hall was held on 30 October 1887.

Subsequent well-attended services led to the purchase of present, though smaller, corner site and a timber school room was constructed – brick was too costly and had supply issues.

Church histories provide little detail on what the earlier church buildings were like. This article tries to reconstruct the expanding fifteen-year-old church. To me, this was a prelude to the *Busy Decade* of 1912 to 1922 when the new church and organ, tennis courts, the brick Sunday School and wooden kindergarten room were added. This will feature in the next *Link*.

## Elsternwick and the Church in 1902

The map, upper right, shows the 1902 church and environs. Elsternwick was an expanding suburb. Foster Street was most likely unpaved but with an asphalt path on the church side. The Caulfield Tramway Company's horse tram depot was located north of the laneway with an office on Murray Street.

The horse tram tracks ran on the west side of Foster Street turning right to Elsternwick, and left to Glenhuntly, and the Caulfield Station route via Kooyong and Glen Eira Roads.

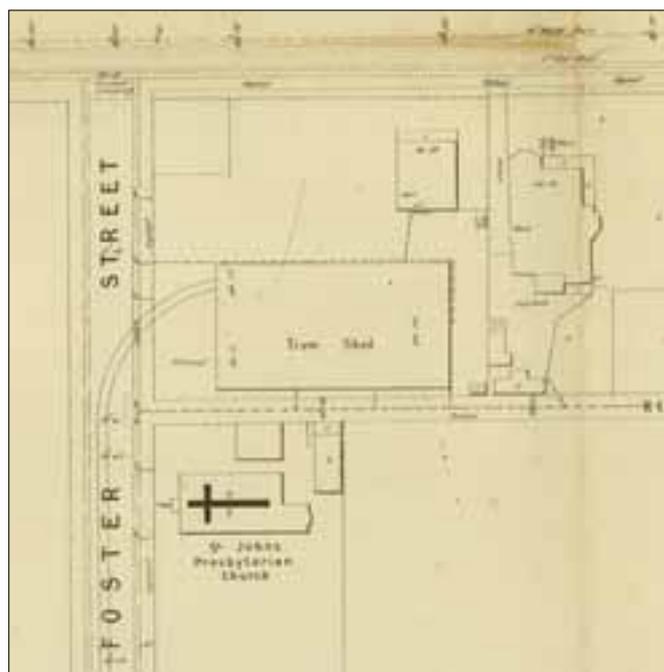
Today's older houses in Murray Street are shown. To the west, there is a still-existing unnamed large house in Hopetoun Street (now Cabrini) but there are no buildings shown east along Glen Huntly Road, or west to Hopetoun Street. *Burreel*, a large house still located on the avenue of that name, had a sweeping driveway, entering Glen Huntly Road around today's Hoddle Street intersection.

The church (now the hall) itself had one central door reached by steps. The hall was entered directly from these steps. The elongated section at the rear was the Vestry. There was a classroom beside the laneway, a store at the back, along with the *privies*.

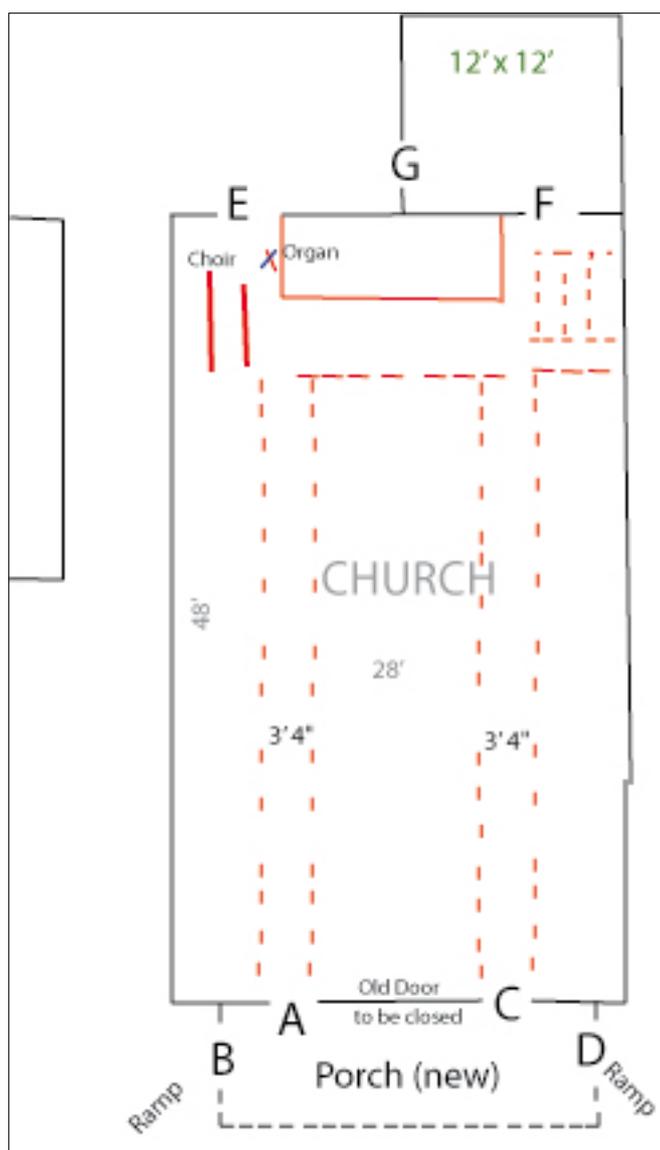
## Inside the Church

The plan at right, from 1902 Board of Health documents, addresses changes to the church, which did not then include the stage. Changes included adding the porch, removing the centre door, and having two ramps one on each side. The plan also shows the seats with two 3'4" aisles, the organ's location and the choir. The rectangle beside the organ was possibly for the minister and communion table. The same documents state the Hall roof was slate.

**Geoff**



MMBW Detail Plan 1460 1902. [www.slv.vic.gov.au](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au)



Tracing from the 1902 plan of the church (now the hall) at Public Record Office Victoria VPRS 7882 P0001 166.

# St John's Uniting Church, Elsternwick Roster & diary dates for August and September 2022

August	7 Pentecost 9*	14 Pentecost 10	21 Pentecost 11	28 Pentecost 12		Diary Dates								
Leader	Rev L Dungan	Rev L Dungan	Rev L Dungan	Karel Reus			<b>Birthdays</b>							
Lectionary Readings	Isaiah 1:1, 10–20; Ps 50:1–8, 22–23; Heb 11:1–3, 8–16; Lk 12:32–40	Is 5:1–7; Ps 80:1–2, 8–19; Heb 11:29–12:2; Lk 12:49–56	Jer 1:4–10; Ps 71:1–6; Heb 12:18–29; Lk 13:10–17	Jer 2:4–13; Ps 81:1, 10–16; Heb 13:1–8, 15–16; Lk 14:1, 7–14				11 Len 18 Cathy 28 Josephine 29 Keith						
Prayer	Patricia	Audrey	Greg	Cathy					* Holy Communion					
Greeters	Raj	Colin	Wendy	Rhonda										
Readers	Alex	Wendy	Cathy	Don										
Data Projector	Cathy	Greg	Michael	Geoffrey										
Steward/Offering	Andrea/Raj	Andrea/Colin	Cathy/Colin	Cathy/Raj										
Morning Tea	Luchee/Alex	Patricia/Pam	Audrey/Graeme	Denise/Rhonda										
Flowers	Alex	Audrey	Pauline	Rhonda										

September	4 Pentecost 13*	11 Pentecost 14	18 Pentecost 15	25 Pentecost 16		Diary Dates								
Leader	Rev L Dungan	Rev L Dungan	Rev L Dungan	Karel Reus			<b>Birthdays</b>							
Lectionary Readings	Jer 18:1–11; Ps 139:1–6, 13–18; Phlm 1–21; Lk 14:25–33	Jer 4:11–12, 22–28; Ps 14; 1 Tim 1:12–17; Lk 15:1–10	Jer 8:18–9:1; Ps 79:1–9; 1 Tim 2:1–7; Lk 16:1–13	Jer 32:1–3a, 6–15; Ps 91:1–6, 14–16; 1 Tim 6:6–19; Lk 16:19–31				11 Colin						
Prayer	Michael	Cathy	Patricia	Audrey					* Holy Communion					
Greeters	Raj	Colin	Wendy	Rhonda										
Readers	Alex	Don	Geoffrey	Patricia										
Data Projector	Cathy	Greg	Michael	Geoffrey										
Steward/Offering	Michael/Andrea	Cathy/Andrea	Colin/Raj	Cathy/Andrea										
Morning Tea	Bernii/Graeme	Pam/Patricia	Luchee/Colin	Audrey/Alex										
Flowers	Rhonda	Audrey	Pauline	Alex										