

Minister's Word

In a song called *Easter People* sung by Tasmanian folk singers John Coleman and Ian Bartle the words from the chorus came back to me as I contemplated this Easter:

"There's a rising in the hearts of you and me, Easter people there is a rising again". In the Easter gospel stories, what becomes clear is that the passion and resurrection of Jesus the Christ births a new community. Indeed, to a disparate and despondent group, grieving, and lacking purpose, the message of Jesus dead and risen again was transformative.

The community of God's Easter people emerged from a motley crew of Christ's followers to become a movement that changed the world. Easter is thereby not just remembering a one-off past event, as this transforming work continues in each generation and often begins with a change or softening of people's hearts that revitalises their trust in God and God's people. Still today the stories and experiences of Easter worship invite the faithful to ponder their deeper meanings and consider how Christ's suffering love and service gives hope and courage to rise!

According to our faith traditions, Easter faith comes through both the action of God a priori and the counter cultural behaviour of God's people. Something much bigger than loyalty to a like-minded group happened and arguments about an empty tomb were not enough to convince people that Christ had risen. Instead, people's living testimonies of how "I/we trust in the risen Lord" had a ripple effect as the churches grew.

Faith communities throughout the ages have expressed their trust in the person of Jesus still present amongst them and how their eyes and hearts opened to the bigger picture of God's saving action for the world. This may be why John 3: 16–17 has been so pivotal in Christians' lives for these verses speak of God who sent

Jesus not to condemn the world but that the world (or *cosmos* in Greek), might be saved through him.

To be Easter People is to continue to trust in a God whose intent is salvation, liberation, and healing, and find and believe that love is stronger than hate, life can rise again even in places of death. Here too the word of forgiveness spoken from the crucified Christ in the Lukan Passion narrative chapter 23: 34, speaks a strong message to all persecutors who think that violence and oppression control the outcomes. In contrast, God's voice in this and other gospel narratives speaks of forgiveness and mercy which can change hearts and minds.

Sometimes, in folly, we might think that we can effect change by inventing innovative programs and adding new structures to church life. However, it happens more often when people experience good relationships in the church and have their hearts moved to respond to God's love and life seen in Jesus the Christ. This seems to echo the rising of our hearts alluded to in Coleman and Bartle's song *Easter People*.

As Easter people, we can rise above our cares and fears. Seventeen years ago, attending an Ash Wednesday service, where worshippers are marked with ash on their foreheads in a sign of the cross to remember their mortality and that they belong to Christ, I received a surprise phone call. It was from the hospital where a family member in a coma had just awoken and was calling my name. I remember my spirits lifted, I thanked God, I danced with joy.

So too may we find moments when we rise and experience a stirring of our hearts that can revitalise us. As TiS hymn 602 invites us to trust in the love that will, "not let us go" and as verse two says, "my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine's blaze it's day may brighter, fairer be." May we have courage and arise knowing that we belong to Christ and are never alone. A Blessed Easter to all.

Rev Dr Lynette Dungan

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Venue hire: <https://elsternwick.unitingchurch.org.au/facility-hire/>

Church Council Report

March 2024

Church Council met in February and March. It continued the discussions begun at the Gathering of members on 31 January. The summary and proposed way forward with the list being allocated to the subcommittees of the Council: Worship and Nurture Committee, Property and Finance Committee, and Outreach and Social Justice. The notes were distributed via email to the congregation. Members of the congregation are invited to join these groups.

Progress since the discussion

Explore less formal worship services

Cathy led a time of discussion around the table on 25 February and asked people to respond in writing at her 17 March service.

Deepening our partnership with CSCH

Activities defined and dates booked:

Blessings

Tuesday 23 April, 7, 14 and 21 May
2.00pm–3.30pm

What do Blessings mean in your life?

Where can they be found?

How might we bless others?

We will share the blessings we experience in our lives and write and create some together to pass on to others. You don't need to have writing skills, just bring yourself and a willingness to share from your life.

Themes for the four sessions:

Blessings of the Seasons

Blessings in the dark times

Blessings of Friends and Loved Ones

Blessings for today and the coming years.

These sessions will be led by Lynette.

Reflections

Saturday 27 April, 18 May, 15 June
5.00pm–6.30pm

A time for stillness and reflection using images, music and silence.

Towards gaining

a long-term lease for CSCH

Rev Jay Robinson, Presbytery Minister, attended the March Church Council meeting to hear and to answer questions around the Property Applications Review Team's (PART) expectation of Kooyong Road being used for religious purposes. We will provide her with details of the partnership and write an article for *Newsbeat*. Please give your contributions to Andrea. She will arrange to meet with a representative of PART to assist in understanding their expectations.

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Property

No doubt you have noticed that there is a lot happening around St John's. The carpenters and painters have been busy on one crane working on the west wall of the hall on Foster Street while the roof plumbers have been busy above the church. We have been very blessed with these tradies who have worked hard to minimise costs while complying with strict guidelines for working near powerlines.



Callum has moved traditional profiled weatherboard from the back of the hall to the Foster Street entrance to respect the heritage of the hall. Kristian and Daniel have prepared thoroughly and painted almost every external surface (they were proud when they realised it was Uniting Church colours). Webb's have repaired and painted the spire, painted the valleys and ridges with rust preventative paint and waterproofed the masonry walls. This work has been funded from the sale of Foster Street.

It looks spectacular.

It is a sign to the community that we are alive!

Fincham Organ

Work on the organ has continued with the installation of a new Swell Open switch and new baffle expansion chamber to reduce blower noise. Church Council approved a final section of work on the organ to replace the 4' quint stop, which is not effective or authentic, with a 2' piccolo stop which will add brightness. With donations of \$2400, the cost will be within the previously approved \$10,000.

Cathy

"We are just passing through – our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love . . . And then we return home."

Aboriginal saying from Andrea

Presbytery Report

I attended the first 2024 Presbytery-in-Council meeting at Noble Park Uniting Church on 16 March with David Higham in the chair.

Opening worship started brightly and noisily singing TiS 666 *We are marching in the light of God* with drum accompaniment provided by Pakenham's Pastor Riak Kiir.

The following documents were received and discussed during the meeting.

- 23 November 2023 minutes
- Presbytery Annual Report
- Faithful Futures Project Responses
- Casey Cardinia Mission Project Report
- Communications Strategy 2024–2026.

Copies are on the Church Table.

Presbytery of Port Phillip East Annual Report 2023

This document provides information of Presbytery people and events.

Faithful Future Project (FFP) Feedback

The FFP is working to address challenges and opportunities in order to prepare the church for the next 10 to 15 years.

Challenges include changing age profile and congregation size, and the burden of property maintenance.

Opportunities include growing in ways of worship, witness and service. FFP participants were drawn from the Presbyteries and Synod.

The Responses document summarises the Port Phillip East Presbytery (PPEP) survey response. The document noted there was strong support for the following Vision Statement across Victoria and Tasmania:

Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation.

The Survey listed thirteen possible expressions of communities of faith and discipleship. For each expression, these two questions were posed for which a score from 1=not strong/not important to 5=very strong/important was requested:

- How strongly does this expression resonate with what you are currently witnessing in your presbytery?
- How important do you believe this expression will be in your presbytery in 10–15 years?

Where appropriate, comments on resourcing from the Presbytery or Synod were requested.

The following table lists the 13 expressions and the PPEP score for each question between 1 and 5 out of 5.

Resourcing comments are not included.

- Hub locations 3, 4
(Score 3/5 for first question, score 4/5 for second)
- Livestreaming worship 3, 4
- Messy Church 3, 3
- Café church in public or hired spaces 1, 2
- Language specific congregations 5, 4
- Church plants at locations with chaplains 1, 3
- Small gatherings resourced from a Hub, or as Connected Communities 3, 4
- Online communities of worship/service/discipleship 2, 3
- Common interest faith communities 3, 4
- Cooperating ecumenical congregations 3, 3
- Neighbourhood churches 4, 5
- Annual Gathered Communities 2, 3
- Mixed ecology 2, 3.

Casey Cardinia Mission Project Report

This interesting document portrays possible futures for six congregations and their reactions to suggested change. The congregations in the east of the Presbytery are Berwick, Canbourne, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Narre Warren North and Pakenham. It is an instructive document which highlights both different urban environments to Elsternwick and challenges which are similar, and different.

Communications Strategy 2024-2026

This document outlines five Presbytery communication channels and identifies proposed future action steps. The channels are the monthly *Newsbeat*, UCAPPEP website, social media, Weekly Update Email and Presbytery in Council meetings. The Presbytery website is <https://ucappep.org/>

Walking with First Peoples

Rev Jay Robinson spoke about our relations with First Nations Peoples. She referred to a discussion between UCA President Rev Sharon Hollis and Rev Mark Kickett, Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. Read the next page for more details.

Geoff

CSCH Forthcoming Events

Blessings at CSCH at 2.00–3.30

on Tuesday 23 April, and 7, 14 and 21 May

Reflections in the Chapel at 5.00–6.30

on Saturday 27 April, 18 May and 15 June

Pilgrim students invited to engage in reconciliation

The following report by Andrew Humphries appeared on the Pilgrim Theological College website at <https://pilgrim.edu.au/>. The full conversation between Rev Sharon Hollis and the Rev Mark Kickett can be viewed at this Facebook page: <https://tinyurl.com/4n9raavk>

Pilgrim Theological College staff and students kicked off the academic year on Thursday 22 March 2024, with a deep question to ponder.

As part of the college's orientation, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress Chair, Rev Mark Kickett, answered questions from Assembly President, Rev Sharon Hollis, on the subject of "doing ministry on stolen land".

In introducing the discussion, Acting Head of College, Rev Robyn Whitaker, said it was a confronting subject to consider for those undertaking ministry.

"When we talk about doing ministry and theology on stolen land, we don't do so to try and make someone feel guilty, but to try and name the realities of the traditions that continue to shape our present, and the present lived reality for our Indigenous people."

In a wide-ranging discussion with Sharon, Mark recounted his background as a Noongar man from Western Australia, the historic and ongoing struggles faced by Indigenous people, and how First and Second Peoples might one day walk together.

First, though, Mark said it was important to recognise the trauma Indigenous Australians had suffered since colonisation.

"(Many) things were designed to wipe out the Aboriginal people of this country, and there was a term that was used called "smoothing the dying pillow", which suggested that if it continued long enough Aboriginal people would die out," Mark said.

"We had no voice, but they didn't count on our resilience and our determination to be who we are with our connection to land and country." Sharon said institutions like the Uniting Church needed to accept their own role in what was done to First Peoples over time.

"The Church is complicit in a lot of the stealing that took place, we ran missions in which Indigenous people were moved to, and we ran homes that took in children removed from their families," she said.

"We can't separate ourselves from the colonial story and pretend that it was someone else doing it, and we are entwined in that story of the dispossession of Indigenous people

through land, language, culture, custom and ceremony."

Mark said it was important that Second Peoples recognised that every piece of land told a story to Indigenous people, and the importance of finding out that story.

That would be, he said, a step towards "doing ministry on stolen land".

"This leads us towards truth telling and a relationship around reconciliation and justice," he said.

"I really believe our soul and spirit has been broken following last year's Voice referendum and if this country is going to find healing in any way, shape or form, it has to do it first with its Aboriginal and Islander people."

For ministry, said Mark, it meant understanding what Jesus represents to Indigenous people and their own stories.

"The Jesus I fell in love with, have come to know and have given my life to, is the one that came and met me as I was as a Noongar man, not as a white version of an Indigenous person turned Christian," he said.

"So it means, in ministry, having an acceptance of all people, because these are the people that Jesus went to see and sat with, ate with and cried with.

"So the question to ask is, 'how does this transform your thinking and the way that you're doing ministry?'."

"If you have Indigenous people coming into your congregation, it's about building a relationship with them.

"Listen to them and begin to build that relationship."

Envirotip

Buy less and choose well

Before buying, ask yourself:

- Is there something I already have that I could use instead?
- Could I borrow this from family, friends or someone in a community group?
- Where will this item be in a year? Two years? Ten years?
- Have I checked what second-hand or rental options are available?

Bible word

Forgiveness

The New Compact Bible Dictionary describes forgiveness as "giving up resentment on account of offence. The offence may be deprivation of a person's property, rights, honour or violation of moral law."

Forgiveness is a choice to decrease resentment and bitterness and can be offered without the other person apologising.

It is well known that forgiving has substantial health benefits and this was known even in the time of the Pharaohs. The inclusion of forgiving is an important fact in all religions.

Two types of forgiving are described: decisional and emotional.

Decisional forgiveness involves a conscious choice to replace ill will with good will and this is sometimes easier to accomplish.

Emotional forgiveness is fully letting go of the pain that was caused and forgiving the perpetrator. This does not mean approval of the act in question.

It also helps if you can empathise and try to understand the other person's point of view regarding why he or she hurt you but without downplaying the wrong. Forgiveness is the best form of love. It takes a strong person to say sorry and an even stronger person to forgive.

Jesus taught us in the Lord's prayer to "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." This is a reinforcement of God's wish.

Jesus, in Matthew 18: 21–22, when Peter asks, "Lord if my brother keeps sinning against me how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven Times?" "Seven times seventy." Jesus replied, "because the kingdom of heaven is like this."

The ground of forgiveness by God of man's sins is the atoning death of Jesus Christ to give us eternal life.

When we acknowledge the immensity of God's mercy for us how must we ration forgiveness to others?

Patricia

Mini Fete

Saturday 11 May at 9.00am

The editors, Andrea, Patricia and Geoff, thank all *Link* contributors. Thanks to Colin for his proofreading.

Social Justice Calendar

April 2024

- 2 World Autism Awareness Day
- 4 International Day for Mine Awareness
- 7 World Health Day
- 15 Deaths in Custody Final Report
- 22 Earth Day

May 2024

- 1 International Workers' Day (May Day)
- 3 World Press Freedom Day
- 11 World Fair Trade Day
- 15 International Day of Families
- 16 International Day of Living Together in Peace
- 19 Pentecost Sunday
- 20–26 National Volunteer Week
- 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 22 International Day of Biodiversity
- 26 National Sorry Day
- 26 2017 Statement from the Heart at Uluru
- 27 1967 Referendum allowing laws for Aboriginal People and to be included in the census
- 27 Reconciliation Sunday
- 27 May–3 June National Reconciliation Week

Source: Justice and International Mission

Daylight Saving

Remember to turn your clock **back** one hour at 3.00am on Sunday 7 April 2024.



Crafty Creations Mondays 1–3
Chatty Café Wednesdays 10–12
Sunday Nite Live 2nd Sunday in each month @6. BYO food to share

From the wider church

Snippets from the Uniting Church Australia-wide

Local church works

Work continues on painting the hall and the steeple as the before and after photos show. It is fortunate that these works only minimally affect church activities.



More substantial works are, however, occurring at our neighbours Ormond Uniting Church where buildings and tennis courts adjoining the church have been demolished.

The church itself is being converted into a multipurpose space with a level floor while a foyer, kitchen and office space will be created to the east of the church.

These works necessitate clearing and storing furniture including the organ, the sale of unwanted items, and the inability to use the church until the works are completed in December 2024.

Sunday church services, in the meantime, are conducted at 4.00pm at Ormond Church of Christ located a kilometre to the east.

For more detail, see the Ormond magazine, *Pathfinder*, on the Church Table.



The former tennis court land closest to the camera has been subdivided and sold.

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Towards the 17th Assembly

The Uniting Church will hold its 17th triennial National Assembly in Sydney between 11 and 16 July.

Assembly General Secretary Colleen Geyer noted "national assemblies are always a significant event in the life of the Church as members gather together in worship, form community and discern together the movement of the Spirit in the life of the Church."



The logo and theme for this Assembly is shown here and is inspired by the honoured Tongan tradition of weaving the *fala* (mat). The theme speaks to our God-given call to weave Christ's love into the world by building bridges across social and cultural divides.

President-elect Rev Charissa Suli noted that "each strand of the fala is important to each other in the same way that the Holy Spirit gifts and empowers all members of the Church to confess Jesus Christ and serve him".

The phrase *Threads of Love* is a reference to Paul's Letter to the Colossians (3:14) and spotlights the transformative power of Christ's love as it overcomes cultural boundaries and unites us in God's service.

Source: <https://rb.gy/wij0o9>

UCA minister has dual role in Vatican

The Rev Tara Curlewis has been an ordained Uniting Church minister since 1994. Rev Curlewis will serve in two roles, as new minister of the Church of Scotland's St Andrew's Church and as the Reformed Ecumenical Officer for the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). The Uniting Church is sister church to the Church of Scotland and is a WCRC member. She has served as president of the New South Wales Ecumenical Council and as General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Source: *Network*, March 2024, p. 15



Anzac Day 25 April
Lest we forget

Sammy Stamp

Due to the continued support of churches, community groups, individuals and businesses in Victoria, Tasmania and Australia, another pleasing result was achieved.

Sales to 21 December 2023 have reached about \$40,216 (same period last year \$47, 690). A couple of our sales have ceased or reduced causing a drop in sales this year.

Thanks to the helpers from our pool of approximately 21 volunteers, the staff at eLM, and to John Black and the folk at Trinity Uniting Church, Brighton for their continuing support by providing their facilities free of charge.

Below are grants approved during 2023 totalling \$38,500 compared with last year's \$49,200.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Turkiye/Syria Earthquake Appeal | 5,000 |
| Vanuatu Cyclones and Earthquake Appeal | 4,000 |
| Vanuatu Prevention of Blindness Project | 2,000 |
| Mission Liaison Group: to assist in transporting charitable goods to our Pacific neighbours | 5,000 |
| Alice Springs UC: to employ a cleaner | 5,000 |
| Mercy Works: to help support refugees from West Papua in a very remote area of Papua New Guinea | 5,000 |
| Frontier Services for Bush Chaplains | 5,000 |
| Kondanani Zambia: support drug and alcohol program and biomass use for cooking and heating in lieu of tree felling and burning | 2,500 |
| Uniting Vic Tas 2023 Christmas Appeal | 5,000 |
| Total | 38,500 |
| Total grants since 1977 | 1,158,393 |

Source: *Network*, February 2024 pages 8–9.

Ministry of Flowers



A basket of fruit

Let us recall this wonderful story from Africa where, as the story goes, an anthropologist proposed a game to children in an African tribal village. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and said that whoever got there first would win the sweet fruit. But when he gave them the signal to run, to his surprise they all took each other's hands and ran together. And when they reached the tree, they sat in a circle sharing and passing the fruit around, each one enjoying their share. When he asked them why they chose to run as a group, when one could have been the fastest and so have won the basket of fruit to feast on all alone, one child spoke up and said: "UBUNTU, How can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?" UBUNTU in the Xhosa culture means "I am because we are" or "I am because you are."

Esther Pockrandt

Supplied by Andrea

Sign of the times



Transitioning from full-time to casual employment

by Michael



Forty-four years of full time employment ended with my acceptance of an Early Retirement Scheme package and departure from the Victorian Government in July 2022. And so my retirement began!

Nearly two years later, I am a member of four casual workforces in three different types of workplaces – a racecourse (x2), a stadium, and a school.

At the racecourses and stadium, I am required to wear a uniform, primarily consisting of white business shirt, black trousers, a blazer, and black shoes. When on traffic management or car parking, the business shirt is replaced by a high vis polo shirt and if colder, a high vis jacket too.

My employers are Moonee Valley Racing Club, Victoria Racing Club, Overnewton Anglican Community College and Marvel Stadium/Australian Football League. In all cases, I have been through rigorous recruitment processes including personal and group interviews, confirming I have a current Working with Children Check, and completion of various employment application and on-boarding forms.

In addition to the casual employment

opportunities, I joined the Australian Electoral Commission as a mobile polling team leader. I visited four different aged care residential facilities in October, taking votes for the Voice referendum over the two weeks prior to the official polling day.

I have been fortunate to date to work at the past two Cox Plate days at Moonee Valley in a door entry checking role for the Celebrity Room, and for three of the four days of the 2023 Spring Racing Carnival at Flemington, including Melbourne Cup day in a traffic management role.

I commence duties at Marvel Stadium in mid-March in an usher role for the third Pink music concert, and have several shifts coming up after that for AFL matches as the 2024 season kicks off. At the end of the season, I am hopeful of being on duty for Coldplay and Pearl Jam concerts at the stadium in October–November.

At Overnewton College, both Angela and I supervised several Year 12 exams, sometimes positioned in large rooms with many students, but sometimes in small rooms with one or two students who had official permission to be in a quieter room, and often had additional time to complete an examination and/or they could have self-determined rest breaks as needed to a maximum total of 30 minutes.

In all these casual workforces, other friends who have also *retired* are employed, meaning I can sometimes travel with someone to and from the work location. Aside from offering this catch up time with friends, my casual employment offers exciting opportunities to be involved in major events attended by large crowds, fun engagement with patrons who are generally well behaved and out for a good time, and to be part of interesting employer organisations.

To carry out my roles, I need to have good customer service skills, problem solving ability, IT skills particularly in use of Apps to undertake online training and accept/reject shift offers.

I enjoy the flexibility too of not having to be working every day, or a set number of days and hours every week. I find myself not working at all in some weeks, one night or one day in others, and sometimes more than one day and/or evening in a week. It is ultimately up to me to accept or reject shift offers and to block out times when I am not available at all.

I do not necessarily see myself continuing to work in all four casual workforces into the future, but whilst I am fit and healthy it is a good opportunity to try different types of work, learn about different employers and earn some money to use for travel and other purposes.

Recent events

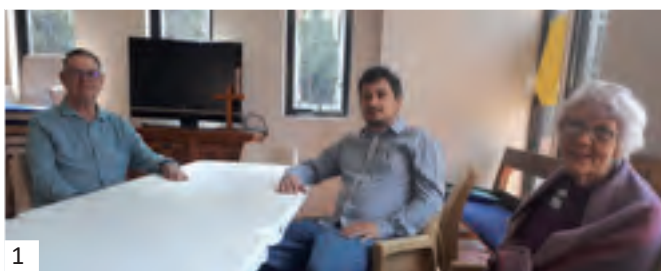
- 1 Jane, Shane and Don have a chat
- 2 Happy 90th birthday Audrey
- 3 Patricia, Cathy and the birthday cake
- 4 Discussing our future on 31 January
- 5 Church Round the Table Service
- 6 Another 90th birthday. Happy returns Pauline
- 7 Come and play Rummikub at Crafty Creations
- 8 Friday Friends Lunch in Elsternwick
- 9 Lois reaches her 102 milestone



5



6



1



7



2



8



3



9



4

Restoring our pillar boxes

We are all familiar with red post office boxes. Recently, Adrian (of St John's) alerted me that his friend Mick was restoring these boxes to their former red and gold glory. It happened that I met Mick Slocum (pictured) the next day. Mick kindly provided these details of his work.



Mick Slocum OAM, musician, creative artist and pharmacist by trade, spent a recent Wednesday restoring the heritage pillar box

on the corner of Hawthorn and Glen Huntly Roads to its former glory. It is his twenty-third restoration of these Victorian Era masterpieces.

"I'm lifting the veil on the hidden heritage around Melbourne and Victoria", Mick said.

How did this unique undertaking come about? Well, some eight months ago Mick said for twenty years he had driven past a graffiti-covered pillar box near his home and one day, on a whim, decided to clean it off. "Graffiti tags have become a major issue in most parts of the city", Mick said.

After finishing the cleaning he looked at it and thought "Hmm, I might as well keep going" so he went to the local hardware store and bought some gold, black and red paint and spent the next day restoring the pillar box.

"I happened to show some photos of the restoration to the friendly postmistress down the street and she posted them on the Australia Post Facebook page.

I then received a call from the Australia Post Nationwide Manager of post boxes and it just snowballed from there."

These pillar boxes have been hiding in plain sight for decades and Mick has been provided with a list of over 120 examples city and state-wide and is restoring them under the auspices of Australia Post.

"It's amazing how many people approach me when I'm working to ask how long this pillar box has been here as they've never seen it before", Mick said.

"So much of our precious heritage continues to be lost under the developer's wrecking ball and it is becoming even more important to preserve what we can of these timeless heritage pieces".

"The restoration process also has an added advantage to the local area", says Mick, as it brightens up the streetscape, and if there are lawns and gardens nearby I tidy them up and mow the grass as well to give the pillar box a nice place to stand".

As a spin off from the project Mick has also been talking to Dulux paints with a view to sponsorship and perhaps developing a new colour with which to paint the boxes, is talking to Australia Post about a postage stamp issue featuring the restored pieces, and is currently discussing with Australia Post's public relations unit a nationwide program to restore and retain these pieces.

"It's a little like painting the Sydney Harbour Bridge", says Mick. "Once I finish the list it will be time to start over again!

There aren't many things on the streets these days that are over 130 years old, and I think these things are well worthy of preservation."



Pillar box, before and after, at the Glen Huntly and Hawthorn Road corner.

In Your Name

May we honour your name

not by paying it lip service, Lord Jesus
but by trusting the vision it speaks of
and the way it calls for

May we honour it by following you
speaking into the word with our actions
and showing who we're chosen to follow

May we love in your name

Speak in your name

Care in your name

that willingness to touch the outcast

Feed the hungry

Remember the sick

Visit the imprisoned

Clothe the naked

Give water to the thirsty

In your name. AMEN

From Port Phillip East Presbytery Newsletter

8 February 2024

Source: <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/>

St John's Uniting Church, Elsternwick

Roster & diary dates for April and May 2024

| April | 7 Easter 2 | 14 Easter 3* | 21 Easter 4 | 28 Easter 5 | | Diary Dates |
|---------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| Leader | Worship and Nurture | Rev Dr L Dungan | Rev Dr L Dungan | Worship and Nurture | | Birthday 29 Angela |
| Lectionary Readings | Acts 4:32–35; Ps 133; 1 Jn 1:1–2:2; Jn 20:19–31 | Acts 3:12–19; Ps 4; 1 Jn 3:1–7; Lk 24:36b–48 | Acts 4:5–12; Ps 23; 1 Jn 3:16–24; Jn 10:11–18 | Acts 8:26–40; Ps 22:25–31; 1 Jn 4:7–21; Jn 15:1–8 | | Events 8 Church Council @ 3.30 14 Sunday Nite Live @ 6.00 25 Anzac Day 26 Friday Friends @ 12.30 |
| Prayer | Audrey | Greg | Patricia | Cathy | | Weekly Craft & Chat Monday @ 1–3 Chatty Café @ 10–12 |
| Greeters | Colin | Wendy | Raj | Alex | | * Holy Communion |
| Readers | Alex | Andrea | Audrey | Don | | |
| Data Projector | Greg | Geoff | Greg | Geoff | | |
| Steward/Offering | Andrea/Colin | Raj/Andrea | Colin/Raj | Cathy/Raj | | |
| Morning Tea | Pauline/Patricia | Audrey/Colin | Alex/Barbi | Rhonda/Luchee | | |
| Flowers | Patricia | Audrey | Alex | Rhonda | | |

| May | 5 Easter 6* | 12 Easter 7 | 19 Pentecost | 26 Trinity Sunday | <p><i>CSCH Forthcoming Events</i> <i>Blessings at CSCH at 2.00–3.30 on Tuesday 23 April, and 7, 14 and 21 May</i> <i>Reflections in the Chapel at 5.00–6.30 Saturday 27 April, 18 May and 15 June</i></p> | Diary Dates |
|---------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| Leader | Rev Dr L Dungan | Rev Dr L Dungan | Rev Dr L Dungan | Cathy McNicol | | Birthdays 8 Lee 11 Alex 15 Geoffrey 16 Don 18 Kevin 22 Lynette 23 Greg 24 Michael 25 Luchee 28 Margaret Mc |
| Lectionary Readings | Acts 10:44–48; Ps 98; 1 Jn 5:1–6; Jn 15:9–17 | Acts 1:15–17, 21–26; Ps 1; 1 Jn 5:9–13; Jn 17:6–19 | Acts 2:1–21 or Ezek 37:1–14; Ps 104:24–34, 35b; Rom 8:22–27 or Acts 2:1–21; Jn 15:26–27, 16:4b–15 | Is 6:1–8; Ps 29; Rom 8:12–17; Jn 3:1–17 | | Events 11 Mini fete@ 9 12 Sunday Nite Live @ 6 13 Church Council @ 3.30 31 Friday Friends @ 12.30 |
| Prayer | Greg | Cathy | Audrey | Patricia | | Weekly Craft & Chat Monday @ 1–3 Chatty Café @ 10–12 |
| Greeters | Rhonda | Wendy | Raj | Alex | | * Holy Communion |
| Readers | Alex | Andrea | Patricia | Don | | |
| Data Projector | Cathy | Greg | Cathy | Geoff | | |
| Steward/Offering | Colin/Raj | Cathy/Andrea | Raj/Colin | Cathy/Raj | | |
| Morning Tea | Pauline/Patricia | Audrey/Luchee | Colin/Barbi | Rhonda/Alex | | |
| Flowers | Patricia | Audrey | Alex | Rhonda | | |