

## Minister's word



On reading Luke's gospel chapter 10 verses 38–41, the story about Jesus visiting sisters Mary and Martha and their different responses to him, I am drawn to verse 39, "a sister named Mary . . . sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying".

This act of listening invited me to reflect further. For, intentional and care-full listening connects with my PhD findings, that showed how a contemplative stance fosters deep listening. Such listening can be transformative for both the listener and the one seeking to be heard. Most participants reported listening deeply was associated with being attentive and present, though they described this in different ways. One participant described how this "deep listening" offered "a space to reflect what is heard" (Dungan, 2023, p. 86) while another indicated they weren't only listening to what was said but to "what is the nature of the edge between the known and unknown" (Dungan, 2023, p. 91). It was clear that this kind of listening opened possibilities for connection and new awareness.

In my inquiry, I referenced Miller's (2014), description of presence, from his book, *The contemplative practitioner: Meditation in education and the workplace*, where:

Presence involves listening not only with ears and mind but also listening with heart, which means hearing the emotions and the essence of the persons who speak, hearing what is not said and hearing those who do not speak overtly and listening for what is in the quietness (Miller, 2014, p. 46).

Members of the Benedictine tradition, known to offer hospitality to all who visit, similarly speak of listening with the mind in the heart.

They acknowledge this can involve discipline that shifts us from our heads to an integrated listening in accord with the great commandment to love God with all your heart, mind, and soul.

Later in Luke 10: 41, Jesus appears to commend Mary's listening as "the better part which will not be taken away from her", and contrasts this with the many things that might be distracting and worrying Martha. The story is not dismissing Martha and her gift of hospitality to Jesus per se but points to the beneficial



option that Mary takes, to stop and listen and be open to learn. In art depicting the story of Mary and Martha, (pictured) Mary is sitting quietly, gazing, and listening to Jesus, I wonder in my imagination how Mary was listening and what stayed with her.

This story came to the early Christian communities, often small and fragmented, yet also growing as people shared the good news about Jesus, and disciples were added to their number, and emphasised the importance of faithful listening to the teachings and person of Jesus to strengthen their relationships to God and each other. In an analogous way, in the previous Scripture passage, the Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25–37, the challenge put by a lawyer to Jesus about what he must do to inherit eternal life has Jesus telling him a subversive story, where the Samaritan, the outsider, did what was lifegiving to a wounded man left for dead. The question, then presented by Jesus, has the lawyer listening and discovering that it is important to "go do likewise", to show mercy to his neighbour in his everyday life. This insight would involve listening with the heart, to find their shared common humanity.

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If we seek to listen and perhaps have some training in how to listen carefully, we will hear more than information. Indeed, there is always more to the people who are sent by God into our lives than just the words said. To foster contemplative ways of listening that can open the ears of our heart can be transformative as to how we can love God, creation and one another. Mary's act of listening can prompt us to stop and listen further to the presence of God with us in our daily lives. I invite you to foster faithful listening.

**Blessings**  
**Rev Dr Lynette Dungan**

### Select References

Dungan, L. (2023). *Supervising from a contemplative stance: A collaborative inquiry* [Doctoral dissertation, La Trobe University].

Miller, J. P. (2014). *The Contemplative Practitioner: Meditation in Education and the Workplace*. University of Toronto Press (p. 46).

## Church Council June Report

The Church Council met on 2 and 30 June. At the first meeting, Cathryn Peppiatt was warmly welcomed to the Community Engagement Facilitator role and, at the end of the month, we were pleased to welcome Cathy back from her overseas trip.

Greg and Cathy have continued working on the Mission Motivated Development Documentation to send to Presbytery for approval and then forwarding on to Synod Property Applications Review Team (PART) before their August meeting. This is particularly in relation to the Kooyong Road buildings leased by Caulfield South Community House (CSCH).

The relationship with CSCH continues to be strengthened, with the input of board members to our flyer and survey (more about that in Cathryn's Community Engagement Facilitator report). Members of the Elsternwick Toddlers' Playgroup have also offered support and feedback in the design of the flyer and survey. Maintenance works continue around our buildings:

- replacing lights in the Ladies' toilet, church and stage,
- repairs to gas heater in the hall, and
- purchase of a new fridge, after the old one ceased working.

Approvals were given for the installation of three speed humps and a sign in the drive, and upgrades to the manse (painting, heating/cooling, carpeting and curtains) and East Room. Our congregation continues to reach out to the community and support and nurture people through the Peace Vigil, Monday afternoon Craft, Games and Chat, and the Wednesday morning Chatty Table sessions.

These activities would not be possible without the dedication and service of congregation members who work to make the space inviting, and everyone who attends to feel welcome.

**Cathryn**

## Bible Word

### I AM

1. God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and commissioned him to go and free the Israelites from slavery. Moses said: "Who shall I say sent me?" God said: "I AM WHO I AM. I AM has sent you" (Exodus 3:14). The divine name, so holy it could not be uttered, so was transliterated to YHWH (Jehovah).
2. Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I AM." At this, they picked up stones to stone him (John 8:58). Why? Because He uttered the divine name, making himself equal with God. This was blasphemy.
3. Jesus said, "I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" (Rev. 22:13). Compare this with "I AM the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God (Rev. 1:8). Here, Jesus is making himself equal with God again.

Jesus used I AM to indicate that he was the way to salvation. "I AM the gate for the sheep; they listen to my voice. Whoever enters through me will be saved." (John 10:3, 7, 9).

"I AM the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but have the light of life." (John 8:12).

"I AM the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35).

### References

*Holy Bible New International Version.*  
*The Bible Reader's Encyclopedia and Concordance* ed Rev. C. H. Wright, D.D. 1962.  
*The NEW Bible Dictionary* 1965.

**Andrea**

# What do you do all day?

News from Cathryn, Community Engagement Facilitator

Firstly, thank you to everyone for the warm welcome and messages of affirmation in my first couple of months working with the congregation.

Many hours have been spent working alongside Greg, as together we have mapped out the priorities of the role. With input from Patsy and Vijay from the Caulfield South Community House (CSCH) Committee of Management and Alex and Shamina from Elsternwick Toddlers' Playgroup (ETP), a survey to gauge community interest and need, and how the church can support it, has been finalised, together with a flyer advertising the ETP Open Day on Sunday 20 July, beginning at 2pm.

It has taken many hours and lots of meetings and back-and-forth emails to bring this to fruition. It has been a truly collaborative effort among the CSCH, ETP and the congregation. Many thanks to the people who have walked their local streets to deliver the flyers to as many households as possible.

Organising general maintenance around the building and being on site to meet contractors has also occupied quite a bit of my time. Details of the recent work is in the Church Council report.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the time I have spent getting to know people at the Monday afternoon Craft, Chat and Games and Wednesday Chatty Table. I've heard stories of the Op Shop, of trips

with friends, learned from others and shared my knitting know-how. I even won a game of RummyKub!

The Peace Vigil on Wednesday afternoons is a great gift to the community and a credit to this congregation for continuing through rain and shine to share God's peace and love with people as they pass by.

Creating displays for the noticeboard on Glen Huntly Road has been a joy. As I was taking down the Sorry Day display in readiness for the Refugee Week display, a woman at the tram stop told me how great it is to see the different messages of justice, peace and hope that are displayed there. "What you put up is always great. It shows the community what you care about", were her words to me. There are plenty of ideas for future displays. I've appreciated the ideas and resources to make the displays engaging that Alex and Cathy have provided. A real team effort.

Actually, I feel that much of the work I've done has been a team effort and am deeply grateful for the support and ideas that others have given me. Thank you all for welcoming me and making my work here a joy.

**Cathryn**

## Ministry of Flowers



## The Peace Vigil

Good afternoon and peace be with you.

Sitting quietly as people pass us by is a real testament to the power of being present. The sign saying "Peace" and our good afternoon and peace be with you (50 to 80 times) brings a ripple of smiles, responses and at times complete dismissal.

Occasionally people stop to chat some hostile, others in affirmation and still others who venture in to the church to light a candle.

For me, it's important to make the time to connect forever how briefly, to smile, to speak, and to pray for peace.

**Rod**

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

**Peace Vigil**  
**Wednesdays 4.00–5.00**



# War

Born.  
Bring Her up –  
Bring Her up.  
Bring Her forth  
To enter the World.

Bring Her Up not Shriek  
As She enters the World.  
Bring Her to enter the  
World, and born of Love.  
Bring her up of a voice  
Gently spoken. Tears of love unspoken.  
Of No peril, a peril be it,  
Only of the love of a Mother  
A Father . . .  
Abound in love.

Bring Her Her voice softly spoken.  
As the Mother bares. She bares  
The anguish of a woman's pain . . .  
To want to be and not bare.

No water . . . no food and no  
breast for Her Child to sup  
from

Bring Her up  
When the World has not  
Held to her mother's breast . . .  
Her mother's breast either.

How can We say . . . Simply say,  
Have love . . . have love.  
How can we simply walk away  
Away . . . and say it is not a problem.  
. . . our problem . . .  
We don't want to know.

They are only buried . . .  
Not worthy of a coffin.  
That being all they have.  
The woman's placenta.  
Bring Her up.  
Bring Her forth into the world.  
Prisoner of War.

Gwen

# Church Calendar

## August 2025

- 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 2025

- 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 International Literacy Day
- 10 World Suicide Prevention Day
- 11 RUOK? Day
- 15 International Day of Democracy
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 26 International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Source: Justice and International Mission  
<https://tinyurl.com/4rv6a2jb>

*A gentle answer quiets  
anger but a harsh one  
stirs it up. Proverbs 15:1*

It is not the differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognise, accept, and celebrate those differences.

*Audre Lorde, American writer, radical feminist, professor and activist*

**Supplied by Andrea**

# In support of Welcome to Country

*Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli issued this statement supporting Welcome to Country after it became a matter of public debate in the media.*

"The Uniting Church in Australia stands in complete solidarity with First Nations peoples and honours the Elders who continue to offer Welcome to their ancestral Country with extraordinary generosity, even when their grace is met with disrespect and racism. Welcome to Country is not a courtesy or a formality. It is a sacred act that affirms the sovereignty, cultures, and dignity of First Peoples. With roots in the ancient customs of First Peoples who welcomed visitors onto their lands to ensure safe passage and a peaceful relationship, today it remains a gift that invites all who gather to walk humbly and respectfully.

Aunty Alison Overeem, Palawa woman from South-East Tasmania and First Nations elder in the Uniting Church, describes the Welcome to Country with these words of grace:

Welcoming people into and on country is about welcoming all into a woven shared story. It's a welcome to all the stories that connect us. It's empowering for all to be welcomed into the stories of the land, which centre us in our call to creation, to relationship, to solidarity. It's not for division. It's a call to a shared vision.

As a Pacific daughter, I know that land is not merely land — it is family, life itself. First Peoples have cherished this sacred connection since time beyond memory.

Whenever the profound meaning of these ancient cultural and spiritual customs is diminished, whether through ignorance, fear or public debate, a wound is reopened in the heart of this land. We lose something vital within our own spirit. As an ancient call to relationship and shared responsibility, to dismiss it is to turn away from the truth that could heal us.

As a Church that has formally recognised the sovereignty of First Peoples and entered covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, we are clear. These sacred and ancient practices must be upheld and honoured. Every act of interruption, silencing and disrespect deepens the daily experience of spiritual and cultural unsafety for First Peoples on their own lands.

We give thanks for the steadfast courage of First Nations Elders, who continue to lead with wisdom, grace, and generosity. We call on the Australian community, including our national leaders, to honour and uphold Welcome to Country with the seriousness and respect it deserves. May we be a people who receive the hand of welcome with humility and gratitude.

The Uniting Church will continue to listen deeply, walk faithfully, and stand in covenant with First Peoples in the ongoing work of justice, healing and hope."

Source: *JustAct*, June 2025, pp. 1–2.

## Peace Garden five years on





# Our 2025 European Adventure

by Michael and Angela

Six years after our last visit there, we were drawn once again to Europe. The first half of our four and a half week's planned itinerary commencing on 9 May offered an opportunity for Denise to join us to enjoy activities of mutual interest, namely time with Christine and Nick in south west England and a road trip around Northern Ireland and the north of the Republic of Ireland.

## Part 1 Singapore

To break our lengthy Singapore Airlines flights to and from Europe we booked stopovers in Singapore which included a catch up for dinner with Alex and Gary's daughter-in-law Nicky in the historical Satay Street hawker centre after a picturesque walk along the Marina Bay waterfront.



Nick and Christine

## Part 2 England

A tiring almost 14 hour flight took us to Heathrow, landing mid-afternoon local time. From there we drove for over two hours to the Clinch's Hawkfield Lodge home near Bristol. Upon arrival we received a very warm welcome, enjoyed a delicious dinner and met the family dog, Trig.



On South West Coastal Path

During the following four and a half days we had a wonderful time with beautiful late spring weather with the Clinches.

Highlights included:

- a long walk along public walking tracks easily accessible from Hawkfield Lodge with a drink at a local pub in the nearby Chew Magna village and a visit to the Neolithic Stanton Drew stone circles;
- a day exploring Bristol, its River Avon harbourside and prosperous maritime history, its beautiful Cathedral, and its towering Clifton Suspension Bridge;
- a daytrip to the picturesque Cotswolds region including the towns of Bourton-on-the-Water and Broadway, plus nearby Broadway Tower and its surrounding gardens, a brainchild of the great 18th century landscape designer, "Capability Brown";
- an introductory, spectacular walk on the South West Coast Path, England's longest trail of over 1,000 kilometres through Cornwall, Devon and Dorset, which Christine and Nick are making good progress in completing in short treks of approximately a week at a time – we walked from the mouth of the Exe River in Exmouth to the Budleigh Salterton seafront;
- a half-day visit to Bath admiring its Roman history including its famous Baths, its variety of interesting and tempting shops, and its beautiful architecture.

We were blessed too with Angus and his fiancée Rue Veja's presence in the household for the latter part of our stay, with Rue Veja's enthusiasm for Eurovision proving infectious!

Other memorable parts of our visit included the overall generosity of our hosts and magnificent food we enjoyed at each mealtime, Nick's incredible collection of Old Men Rule t-shirts of which Michael took home two samples, his prowess with sheep and cryptic crosswords which Michael is also endeavouring to develop, and their delightful young neighbour who assists in looking after the sheep when she is needed.

### **Part 3 Ireland: Dublin**

From Bristol airport we flew to Dublin with Aer Lingus on the evening of 15 May. We had a very busy time with a marriage celebration of our nephew Lincoln and his wife Laura ahead of Denise flying from Bristol to join us on the early afternoon on 18 May.

The Book of Kells experience in Trinity College's magnificent Old Library was a wonderful start for us on the marriage celebration day. This precious 9th century manuscript, containing the four Gospels of the New Testament, has had a rich history and is filled with ornate Latin text and intricate illustrations which the experience highlighted in many exhibits and the display of one double page of the original manuscript itself. The spectacular Long Room of the Old Library, which was also part of the experience, was worth the price of the entry tickets alone!

### **Part 4 Northern Ireland and north of Ireland Road Trip**

After meeting Denise at Dublin airport, we picked up our very comfortable Volvo XC60 SUV at the Europcar office and headed off north in glorious sunny weather towards Belfast for a two-night stay. En route we stopped at the Bru na Boinne (World Heritage Site) Visitors Centre just in time to join a late afternoon tour of the exterior of the Newgrange Monument, one of the three larger prehistoric passage tombs located in the vicinity.

For our one full day in Belfast we spent the morning at the amazing *Titanic* experience learning about Belfast's rich industrial and ship building history, and the ill-fated construction, launch and first trip of the *Titanic*. Our afternoon featured a Black Cab Taxi Tour of the West Belfast Murals, with our driver providing a colourful and comprehensive overview of the troubles in this part of Northern Ireland right up to the present day. Whilst his commentary clearly had a Catholic bias, he did give a reasonably balanced picture of the underlying issues.

The next day of our road adventure included a morning walk along the Dark Hedges beech tree lined avenue (featured in *Game of Thrones*) then visits to many attractions on the Causeway Coastal Route, including Ballycastle seaside village, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Giant's Causeway, and Bushmills Irish Whisky Distillery for a short sampling experience before driving on to our overnight stay in historical Londonderry/Derry.

We underestimated the time needed in Derry to take in all it has to offer, but still managed to walk across the Peace Bridge, view the site of the Ebrington Military Barracks, pay short visits to the Catholic and Protestant Cathedrals, and explore the City Walls and the many monuments, memorials and murals along them before heading off early afternoon after our stopover.

From Derry, we mainly followed parts of the Wild Atlantic Way along the west coast of Ireland starting with a lunch stop near Ramelton with very hospitable relatives of in-laws of Michael's sister, Anne. From there we drove north to Fanad Head for a tour of its iconic, working lighthouse, reputedly one of the most beautiful in the world! We continued on to our overnight stop near Falcarragh via magnificent County Donegal countryside and villages. This part of Ireland featured many signs and town names written in Gaelic. Our accommodation (once we found it!) was a lovely house which the owners rented out for the tourist season whilst living in an adjacent unit. It maintained the excellent standard of accommodation we enjoyed on the road trip which was predominantly apartments and townhouses.



For the next two days we travelled south to reach Galway. Highlights included the scenic Portlao-Narin Beach on which we walked and laughed about the huge distance of the lifesaver



lookout to the water's edge at current low tide, the Crohy Head Sea Arch which was a hidden gem reached by a very narrow, ascending road, the soaring Slieve League cliffs reached by a beautiful coastal walk of at least 1.5 kilometres each way, the W B Yeats gravesite in Drumcliff and sculpture in Sligo Town, and Knock shrine commemorating the vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the company of St Joseph and St John the Evangelist by fifteen local villagers in 1879.

Our first holiday rain started as drizzle in Knock but grew heavier as we drove to our overnight accommodation at a friend's home in Furbo in the Connemara area overlooking Galway Bay. Our hosts Mary and Michael treated us to a sumptuous lunch at their home, a tour of the local area with constant rain spoiling the viewing of the wild terrain, a delicious dinner at their favourite local pub Donnelly's of Barna, a magnificent homemade Irish Coffee night cap, then a lovely breakfast on Michael's birthday before we set off for Dublin on another wet day. En route to Dublin we detoured into Ballinasloe to search unsuccessfully for graves of Elliott ancestors buried there. In Dublin, we celebrated Michael's birthday in style at an Italian restaurant recommended by Mary and Michael and close to our accommodation. The next day (25 May) we received the terrible news of Alex's car accident before taking the local bus into the city centre where we did a tour of Dublin Castle learning about the historical importance of the site for both the British and Irish. Onto a local bus back out to our accommodation, collected our rental car and luggage, drove to Dublin airport to return

our car and took our flights out of Ireland – Denise back to Bristol for London and Paris adventures with Christine and us to Lisbon in Portugal for our first visit to this country.

### Part 5 Portugal and Spain

While Denise was in Paris, we flew to and explored Lisbon before travelling by train to Porto and Valencia and crossing into Spain and the town of Tui. Here, we began the six-day 120 kilometre Camina Portuguese which ended in Santiago which we had visited in 2012. En route, Angela and Michael stayed in O Porrino, Arcade, Pontevedra, Caldas de Reis, and Padron. In Santiago at the end of the walk, we received their second Camino compostelas.\*

For our two night Singapore home journey stopover we stayed in the central area close to Orchard Road and with a three day tourist travel card each, used the very efficient train system to get around, including to and from the airport. We landed in Melbourne on the evening of 11 June feeling refreshed and a few kilograms lighter.

\* The above notes on Spain and Portugal are a brief summary. A full and detailed version is on the Church Table.



Walking on Camino

## The Sun is shining in the UK this Summer!

by Christine

You may have heard that the UK has had a series of heatwaves this summer. Beginning with temperatures hitting 25°C (I can see your smiles from here!) and rising to 30°C with 35°C predicted later this week. It has been glorious and we have spent lots of time outside: walking again after my successful bunion operation and trying to tame the garden.

It has also been a glorious summer because we have enjoyed the company of many friends we have made while living overseas, including

Denise, Angela and Michael, and later Cathy, who all arrived in May, just as the weather was heating up! While Angela, Michael and Denise were staying with us, we explored some of our local favourites early on a Monday morning – Bristol Harbourside with the SS *Great Britain*, which transported many £10 POMS to your shores (closed on Mondays), the M Shed – a fabulous social history museum (closed on Mondays) and Bristol Cathedral, the first to ordain women priests in the UK and, thankfully, for the local tourist guides, OPEN on Mondays! We visited my favourite childhood Cotswold



village of Bourton-on-the-Water, also known as the Venice of the Cotswolds with seven bridges spanning the river that runs through it. Venturing further south to Devon, we took our fit visitors on an 8 km section of the South West Coastal Path (SWCP), from Exmouth to Budleigh Salterton. Nick and I began walking the path last year and have completed 650 km so far, just over two thirds of the way.

Our visitors hopped over the Irish Sea for a week's exploration of the Emerald Isle and then Denise returned to Old Blighty and we jumped on the Eurostar from London to Paris for our French adventure. The SWCP training had prepared us well for the 20–30,000 steps we did on each of the following days! The first day took us on the climb through the gardens to Basilique du Sacré-Cœur and a wander around this beautiful catholic church, completed in 1914. However, the steps through the garden did not prove enough exercise and we took up the challenge of the 280-step narrow staircase leading to the top of the dome which rewarded us with a 360° panoramic view of Paris. Breathtaking stuff! We returned to the ground for breakfast and the train to the Chateau de Versailles. We had watched the movie about Marie Antoinette at home to prepare us for the visit and enjoyed walking through the beautiful, vast, colourful rooms, including the King and Queen's chambers and the Hall of Mirrors, as well as seeing the extraordinary collection of paintings depicting the history of the palace. However, the gardens won our hearts with cool pathways taking us through towering tree woodland, opening up to palace vistas and lakes with fountains dancing to music. Beautiful!



Gardens at Versailles

A good night's sleep and we were off again! This time to Notre Dame. We were eager to see how the cathedral had been restored after the fire in 2019 and we were not disappointed. We walked around the cathedral as people gathered for the Ascension Day service and were accompanied not only by the liturgy but also the singing of the choir. Very special. A more leisurely walk

followed along the River Seine passing Musée du Louvre, Place de la Concorde, Champs-Élysées (we didn't buy anything!) and finally reaching the Arc de Triomphe. It was so lovely to see and breathe in Paris, the gardens, the people and these famous places. How else could we finish the day but by climbing the Tour Eiffel! We had to queue but we made it for dinner and enjoyed delicious French cuisine at altitude, overlooking the River Seine.



Arc de Triomphe

Returning to London, Denise and I walked the streets and parks once more, enjoying more sunshine along the Mall and Whitehall, through Green and Hyde Park enjoying our final Italian meal together, before we bid farewell.

Perfectly timed, I then met up with Cathy at St James Piccadilly where we worshipped together. Rev Lucy Winkett is the Rector and we were fortunate that she was preaching, so we grabbed some lunch in the church cafe and had a great conversation catching up with the St John's news and talking about the church and faith today. Another farewell.

It's not farewell for long though. Nick and I will be heading to Melbourne in November for Emily and Alex's engagement party. They will be married in Tuscany in May next year. Angus and Rue Veja are currently living with us as they prepare to move to London in September. They got engaged in February in Sydney and will marry in the UK in September 2026. As you can see, Australia remains a big part of our lives.

# A Marvellous Recovery

In late May, I announced in church that I would shortly join my Singapore family for a much-awaited trip to the Northern Territory.

On a Saturday shortly after in Brighton, my Jazz car and a van collided. The van driver was drug tested for ice and charged. A motorist provided dashcam evidence that I was in no way to blame.

What followed was a period in the Alfred where I found I had six fractured ribs, a fractured coccyx and sternum, and four fractured vertebrae.

I was fitted with an uncomfortable neck brace, moved from emergency to ICU for three days followed by two in the trauma ward.

On Day 4, physio helped me to get out of bed and amazingly (to a group of doctors) I was

able to walk around the ward. The brace was removed the next day and on Day 6 I prepared to return home just in time for Gardening Australia.

After a week of rest, I was able to go on my 11-day holiday in Darwin and surrounds.

I thank the wonderful care taken by the passersby, ambulance medics, police, and the amazing staff at the Alfred. Also, for the bedside love and care of my husband Gary and son Rob, and for the prayers by my church family and friends.

I am also thankful for my quick recovery though it will take some time for the fractures to heal.

I believe that I was aided too by my Strength Training program.


Alex

**LIGHTING A CANDLE**

... for a loved-one  
... for someone on your mind  
... for a pet  
... for peace.

A time of quiet, peace and personal reflection. Bring something that represents your care, if you wish.

7-8pm, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August  
7-8pm, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September  
South Caulfield Community House  
450 Kooyong Rd. Caulfield South



## Sign of the times



Paper books are alive. Reservations at Carnegie Library

## Nicea @1700



A recent service at All Saints' East St Kilda celebrated the 1700th anniversary of The Council of Nicea.

In May to July 325, the Council of

bishops was convened by the Emperor Constantine in an attempt to unify Christianity, particularly on the question whether Jesus was fully divine or mere man.

The text on the Creed can be read here:

<https://tinyurl.com/5e36kzuu>

A statement on Creeds in the Uniting Church's *Basis of Union* 1992 edition is found in para 9.

Image source: Public domain.

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Liturgical Colours for  
August and September 2025  
All Sundays are **Green**.



# Presbytery Report

Documents from the Presbytery meeting are on the Church Table.

The Port Phillip East Presbytery-in-Council met at St Colomba's Uniting Church Noble Park on Saturday 22 June 2025.

Opening worship was led by the So Mang Faith Community of Port Melbourne. The Rev Jay Robinson gave the reflection.

Business included receiving the March minutes, Standing Committee and the Audited 2024 Finance Reports.

The meeting then heard a Presentation by Sarah Back as an applicant for Minister of the Word candidacy after which the meeting in

camera voted unanimously to permit Sarah to proceed.

The remainder of the meeting considered three items. The first was to hear from the new disability inclusion advocate Elga Rodriguez

The second business item revolved around the Presbytery Report to Synod and draft proposals to Synod.

The third was to consider the Faithful Futures Project (see below). In this graphic, note the *Vision* on blue background, the four *Goals* that follow, and the comment on *Values*.

Geoff

## UNITING CHURCH VIC & TAS *Faithful Futures recommendations*

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

### Coordinated Ministries

Coordinated ministry and mission in geographic areas such as Local Government Areas, attentive to the life and needs of the local context, by 2030.

### Respecting Country

All communities of faith will be able to tell some of the story of the Country on which they are located by the end of 2028, and be invited to develop local and appropriate ways to respond.

### Intercultural Leadership

By 2028, to:

- (a) be providing appropriate formation and equipping for leaders of different cultural groups; and
- (b) develop networks to support worship, witness and service among communities of diverse languages and cultures.

### All-age Growth

To have at least one all-age community of faith that is interactive, diverse, inclusive and transformative in 80% of Coordinated Ministries by 2030.

The Uniting Church is called to be a pilgrim people, participating in the movement of God. Presbyteries and the Synod have been engaging in a "Faithful Futures" Project discerning ministry and mission ahead. The VISION is widely recognised.

Each presbytery is invited to consider the VALUES that guide their approach to ministry and mission. The GOALS have been developed through Bible study, survey, prayer and consultation. The Faithful Futures Project Meeting on 21 March 2025 resolved to recommend this Vision and these Goals to the presbyteries across Victoria and Tasmania, and to the Synod. Shared goals will help to relieve burdens and strengthen new mission opportunities as we follow Christ together.

For further information contact [FaithfulFutures@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:FaithfulFutures@victas.uca.org.au)

## Envirotip



You are able to recycle the following items at the e-waste recycling stations located at Caulfield, Bentleigh, Elsternwick and Carnegie libraries: batteries; light globes; mobile phones; cameras and accessories; DVDs and CDs; cassettes; floppy discs; X-rays (please cut off personal details); smoke alarms and smoke detectors (with batteries that cannot be removed; if batteries can be removed place detector in your general waste red bin. **Anything else. No thanks!**

Source: [www.gleneira.vic.gov.au](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au)



# Recent Events

- 1 Sea of Hands symbolising community support for reconciliation, rights and respect of our First Nations people.
- 2 Church at Pentecost.
- 3a–3c May is birthday month including some special birthdays.
- 4a–4c Three notice board displays in Glen Huntly Road.
- 5 Peace Vigil is held every Wednesday at 4pm.



# St John's Uniting Church, Elsternwick

## Roster & diary dates for August and September 2025

August	3 Pentecost 8 *	10 Pentecost 9	17 Pentecost 10	24 Pentecost 11	31 Pentecost 12	August Diary Dates
Leader	Rev Dr L Dungan	Rev Jay Robinson	Greg Smith	Cathy McNicol	Cathy McNicol	<b>Birthdays</b> 18 Cathy 28 Cathryn 28 Josephine  <b>Events</b> 24 Daffodil Sunday 24 Lighting a Candle @ 7 29 Friday Friends Lunch @ 12.15  <b>Weekly</b> Craft & Chat Monday @ 1-3 Chatty Café Wednesday @ 10-12 Peace Vigil Wednesdays 4-5  * Holy Communion
Lectionary Readings	Hos 11:1-11; Ps 107:1-9, 43; Col 3:1-11; Lk 12:13-21	Is 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	
Prayer	Patricia	Greg	Cathy	Rod	Audrey	
Greeters	Raj	Wendy	Colin	Rhonda	Raj	
Readers	Don	Audrey	Don	Patricia	Alex	
Data Projector	Greg	Cathy	Geoff	Greg	Greg	
Steward/Offering	Raj/Cathy	Andrea/Raj	Cathy/Colin	Andrea/Raj	Andrea/Raj	
Morning Tea	Rhonda/Denise	Alex/Geoff	Audrey/Luchee	Rod/Barbie	Patricia/Colin	
Flowers	Rhonda	Alex	Alex	Audrey	Patricia	

September	7 Pentecost 13*	14 Pentecost 14	21 Pentecost 15	28 Pentecost 16		September Diary Dates
Leader	Rev Dr L Dungan	Rev Dr L Dungan	Rev Dr L Dungan	Worship and Nurture		<b>Birthdays</b> 11 Colin 12 Ian  <b>Events</b> 28 Lighting a Candle @ 7 26 Friday Friends Lunch @ 12.15  <b>Weekly</b> Craft & Chat Monday @ 1–3 Chatty Café Wednesday @ 10–12 Peace Vigil Wednesdays 4–5 * Holy Communion
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		
Prayer	Patricia	Rod	Greg	Audrey		
Greeters	Colin	Raj	Wendy	Raj		
Readers	Don	Audrey	Patricia	Alex		
Data Projector	Cathy	Geoff	Cathy	Geoff		
Steward/Offering	Andrea/Colin	Cathy/Raj	Andrea/Raj	Andrea/Raj		
Morning Tea	Rhonda/Denise	Barbie/Patricia	Audrey/Luchee	Alex/Colin		
Flowers	Rhonda	Alex	Audrey	Patricia		