



Minister's word



As we enter the Seasons of Advent and Christmas we follow the Year of Matthew. We hear again the Advent themes of hope, love, peace, and joy and listen to the nativity stories of God born amongst us. This short reflection focuses on themes around finding God with us.

Matthew's gospel underlines that Jesus was a great teacher like Moses, yet also Emmanuel, God with us. In the first chapters, we hear that Jesus was born to an unmarried young couple, Joseph and Mary, who were travelling, because of a census, to their hometown.

Joseph and Mary, as ordinary humans, wrestle with uncertainty. They live in complex times when a foreign government exercised control over their daily lives. We see that in these gospel stories, the writer does not shy away from the reality or vulnerability of the human condition, for the characters of Mary and Joseph, though young and struggling to make meaning of their situation, are part of God's great salvation story.

What might this mean for us in our contexts and, when life presents its challenges, to find God is with us? And as we hear in the media each day of wars and violence and see political power used oppressively affecting people's lives. Can we still believe that God is with us and them? At this time of year, I encourage you to contemplate, reflect and pray to experience God present amongst us as in the past and still today, God appears in a fragile world.

In Matthew's gospel we do not find choirs of angels but a God who appears in history, in continuity with the past, and as part of a family tree. Jesus' lineage, framed within a lengthy genealogy, reveals he is a descendant of the great shepherd King David.

We too might see how we are part of a bigger story as the family of God, of our wider connection with God and others. We can find God is with us today, in recognising who we are and where we come from, and in the bigger picture of community, local and worldwide. We are indeed part of a diverse and rich cultural heritage and in this so-called festive season we can gather freely as families across the world to celebrate together and hear the good news that love comes down at Christmas.

In Mathew's gospel, the Wise ones from the east visit the infant Jesus. These gentile wisdom figures offer gifts and recognise Jesus as king. Likewise, foreigners appear in Matthew chapter 4, where the words of the ancient prophet Isaiah echoing that Jesus came to be a light to the people and the gentiles who sit in darkness. Also, in the final instructions to the disciples of Jesus to go out and make disciples of all the nations (Matt. 28:19).

Can we find God with us today in the faces of those from other cultures and in the strangers, we meet? Can we celebrate our multicultural community and church? Can we be a light and shine our light to others?

I hope that you continue to reflect on what Jesus, "God with us" means for you in this season. To know that we are part God's bigger story of love, even in challenges we face.

I leave you with Leunig's prayer poem

Love is born.

Love is born

With a dark and troubled face

When hope is dead

And in the most unlikely place

Love is born:

Love is always born.

Have a Blessed Christmas

Rev Dr Lynette Dungan



MINISTER: Rev Dr Lynette Dungan Phone 0432 381 219 dunganlynette@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR: Cathryn Peppiatt 0494 305 999;

Cathryn.Peppiatt@victas.uca.org.au Monday and Wednesday

CHURCH ADDRESSES: 567 Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick 3185; PO Box 4068, Hopetoun Gardens, 3162

CHURCH EMAIL: elsternwickuc@victas.uca.org.au **CHURCH WEBSITE:** <https://elsternwick.unitingchurch.org.au/>

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

Church Council November Report

At the October meeting Greg updated us on the work he has been doing to address the lack of clarity around the UCA property decision making as we attempt to get a long-term lease for the Caulfield South Community House at Kooyong Road.

He has written to the Property Operations group and the response acknowledged his comments as part of a wider process to create a missionally informed framework to support consistent and transparent decision-making.

The lease negotiations have also involved the development of an extensive Mission document with information around the use of our properties and projected finances for the next five years. We have assumed a fairly steady "business as usual" approach.

Planning for December – Woodard's, who sold Victoria Street, are supporting us with a real estate board to advertise the following programs:

- *The Angel Project*
Friday 5 December 4–5.30pm
A series of craft activities, a story reading and sausage sizzle to promote the understanding of Christmas designed for toddlers organised by Cathryn.

Celtic Blessing

May you have –
Walls for the wind,
And a roof for the rain,
And drinks beside the fire,
Laughter to cheer you on,
And those you love near you,
And all that your heart may desire.

from Lynette

Envirotip

Use string or paper bags when you shop for fruit and vegetables.

Advent Prayer

We come, O God, with adoration and praise, as well as thanksgiving, to you. Our anticipation grows as we begin the journey to the day of great celebration of the birth of your Christ. Open our hearts that we may truly receive the gift of your Son, and know that the joy of life is found with you. Amen.

- *Peace Concert*
Sunday 14 December 2.30–4pm
A concert with afternoon tea with music by Greg and his friend Geoff.
- *Carols Service*
Sunday 21 December 7.30pm
Traditional carols and readings led by Cathy.
- *Advent studies* are planned for discussion over lunch on Sunday 30 November and 7 December.

Greg, Cathryn and Cathy met with Elsternwick Toddlers Playgroup representatives to consider use of the various spaces of the Glen Huntly Road property and possible collaborations. Cathryn has been added to their group chat and offered a story time on Monday mornings.

Property upgrades continue with quotes obtained for heating/cooling in the hall and exploring options for replacement of the church's data projector; external painting and the installation of a split system at the manse; and external doors to be replaced at the community house.

Lynette has committed to a further six months of supply with us. As her role as Senior Lecturer at St Francis Theological College in Queensland increases to two and half days per week her time with us will be 0.4 time fraction.

Cathy

Sign of the Times



Year of Matthew

As President of the Uniting Church in Australia, my theme for these three years is "Threads of Love – Weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries." This theme captures what I see and hear as I travel among our communities: Christ at work across difference, drawing us together in hope. Year A of the Revised Common Lectionary invites us into that same story as we walk alongside Jesus through the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew's account speaks directly to communities seeking to live faithfully in complex times. It is a gospel rooted in Scripture and tradition, yet radically open to the new work of God in Christ. Written for a diverse and often pressured community, Matthew weaves together a story of Jesus as Emmanuel – "God with us" – from his birth to the promise of his abiding presence at the close of the age. This year we will hear the voice of Jesus the Teacher. Matthew frames Jesus' ministry around five great discourses, echoing the five books of Moses. In these we encounter the Sermon on the Mount with its call to a deeper righteousness; parables of the kingdom that reveal God's upside-down reign; instructions for life together as disciples; and visions of judgment and hope for the nations. Matthew continually invites us to see not only what Jesus does but what it means to follow him:

Social Justice Calendar

December 2025

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | World AIDS Day |
| 2 | International Day for the Abolition of Slavery |
| 3 | International Day of People with Disability |
| 5 | International Volunteer Day |
| 9 | International Anti-Corruption Day |
| 10 | International Human Rights Day |
| 23 | 1996: Wik Decision (Native Title) |

January 2026

- | | |
|----|--|
| 25 | Day of Mourning Uniting Church |
| 26 | Survival Day (Australia Day) |
| 27 | International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust |

to embody mercy, humility, justice and courage in our own context.

We also hear Matthew's deep concern for the community of faith. This gospel was written for a church learning how to live as Christ's body – struggling with persecution, diversity and change, yet called to bold witness. Matthew names the reality of conflict, but also offers practical teaching for forgiveness, reconciliation and leadership that serves. In a time when our own communities wrestle with similar challenges, these texts ground us again in the transforming presence of Christ.

This Lectionary year invites us to weave these same threads of love in our worship, witness and daily life. It draws our eyes to Jesus who fulfils the law and prophets, who heals and feeds, who calls us to pray "Your kingdom come." May this journey through Matthew renew our discipleship, open our lives more fully to the Spirit, and draw us closer to Emmanuel who makes us one.

Rev Charissa Suli

Ministry of Flowers



Respect and engagement with First Nations People

The St John's Church Council sent the letters below to Victorian politicians.

The letter at left was sent variously to the Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and the Leader of the Nationals Danny O'Brien MP.

The letter at right was sent to the Premier of Victoria, the Honourable Jacinta Allan.

The Honourable Brad Batten
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament of Victoria
Spring St, East Melbourne VIC 3002
cc: Melina Gaye Bath, Shadow Minister for
Aboriginal Affairs

17 October 2025

Respect and engagement with
First Nations Peoples

Dear Leader of the Opposition,
Our Church Council has been reflecting on the
history of relationships between communities of
Australia with First Nations peoples.

We have been challenged by the history of
injustices, and the continuing disparities in the
qualities of lives of our First Nations communities.

We have also been aware of the continuing
vibrancy and strengths of these communities,
the grace with which they have offered to enrich
the lives of all Australians in drawing on their
knowledge and relationship with the land. We are
aware of their offers to engage with governments
and policy makers in addressing these disparities.

The Church Council have asked me to inform your
office of our deep disappointment that
the Opposition has undertaken to repeal the
Treaty with First Nations peoples of Victoria.

The Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania
supports the state's Treaty process, which aims to
formally recognize First Peoples' rights, address
past injustices, and create pathways for self-
determination.

We believe that political leadership involves
responsibilities to act in ways that are respectful
of all peoples, providing moral direction and
effective engagement with all
peoples, in particular those of First Nations
peoples.

We encourage you to reflect on the issues
involved, and reverse your position.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr Greg Smith
Chair On behalf of Elsternwick Caulfield South
Uniting Church Council

The Honourable Jacinta Allen
Premier of Victoria
1 Treasury Place Melbourne, VIC 3002

cc: David Harris MP. Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
and Treaty

Dear Premier,
Respect and engagement with
First Nations Peoples

Our Church Council has been reflecting on the history
of relationships between communities of Australia
with First Nations peoples.

We have been challenged by the history of injustices,
and the continuing disparities in the qualities of lives
of First Nations communities.

We have also been aware of the continuing vibrancy
and strengths of these communities, the grace
with which they have offered to enrich the lives of
all Australians in drawing on their knowledges and
relationships with the land. We are also aware of their
continuing offers to engage with governments and
policy makers in addressing these disparities.

The Church Council has asked me to inform your
office of our support for the role of your government
in partnering with our First Nations peoples to develop
and enact the Treaty with First Nations peoples of
Victoria.

The Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania supports
the state's Treaty process, which aims to formally
recognize First Peoples' rights, address past injustices,
and create pathways for self-determination.

We believe that political leadership involves
responsibilities to act in ways that are respectful of
all peoples, providing moral direction and effective
engagement with all peoples, in particular those of
First Nations peoples. We encourage you to continue
in the directions that you have established in working
closely with our First Nations peoples.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr Greg Smith
Chair on behalf of Elsternwick Caulfield South Uniting
Church Council

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

A Time of Rest and Refreshment

Rod and I have recently enjoyed a couple of weeks of annual leave, which included times camping, times staying with a number of different friends, the wedding of very dear friends in Adelaide and, finally, six nights in our camper trailer in a caravan park in Halls Gap. These last six days held some deeply spiritual moments for us both.

We took several short walks through the National Park – to lookouts, waterfalls and rockpools. It was on these walks that I was acutely aware of the restorative properties of being in nature. I felt surrounded by the Spirit of the Divine Creator, in the majesty of the towering trees, the sound of the flowing streams and waterfalls, the multitude of wildflowers and

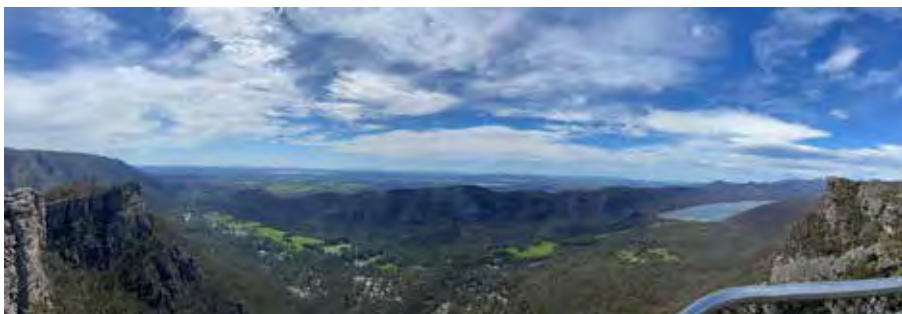
native animals, the wonder and tenacity of gum trees sprouting new growth after bushfires, and the warmth of the sun.

I had the space and freedom to stop, to take time to breathe the air deeply, to breathe in the Spirit of the Divine and the breathe out all that which would separate me from that.

I was reminded of the un-nameable awesomeness of GOD in the sweeping views and the amazing geological forces that created this beautiful part of the world. And I was aware of the intimacy of GOD in the tiny flowers that were pops of colour in the bush.

GOD – indescribably enormous, life-force of all that is, and yet as close to me as breathing. A blessing.

Cathryn



International Peace Day Community Event

What a day of blessing! On Sunday 21 September, a community event recognising International Peace Day was held under the Prayer Tree. Despite an unfavourable weather forecast, the rain held off, and the event took place outside as planned.

A crowd of over 60 people, including guests from the Rotary Club of Caulfield, gathered to witness Rev. Lynette pray a blessing upon the Prayer Tree and the Rotary Peace Pole, which was recently installed in the Peace Garden. The gathered people were invited to join in by raising their hands toward the Prayer Tree and Peace Pole as a symbol of blessing.

Mervyn Ritter, President of the Rotary Club of Caulfield, spoke briefly about the Peace Pole Project, which has seen more than 250,000 peace poles installed worldwide in communities across nearly 200 countries, each inscribed with the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in multiple languages. The Rotary Peace Pole in the church's Peace Garden is number 385 of over 500 poles in Australia and has the message of peace written in Japanese, Hebrew, the local aboriginal language and English.

SoulSong, a cappella choir, under the directorship of Richard Lawton, delighted us with two songs, and the event concluded with songs from Greg Smith and Jeff Karutz, with the crowd being invited to join in with the chorus of an Archie Roach song, "Let Love Rule".

Greg and Geoff also provided background jazz while people enjoyed Devonshire Teas in the East Room.

Thanks to everyone who supported the event in any way. Thanks to Church Council for supporting the idea, to Greg and Cathy for helping with the planning, to Lynette for praying the blessing on the Peace Pole and Prayer Tree. Thanks to Alex and Wendy for making scones, to Audrey for her assistance and wisdom as we set up the East Room for Devonshire Tea – and for serving the tea and coffee. Thanks to Rod for washing up and Geoffrey for taking photos. Thanks to everyone who came to be a part of the day. And if I've missed anyone, please accept my apology.

There was a real sense of the presence of the holy in the gathering and quite a few people who are not a part of our congregation mentioned what a blessing the day was to them. Praise be to God!

May God bless you with discomfort, at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears, to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

May it be so.

Cathryn



Church Calendar

Christmas Peace and Goodwill

Peace and Goodwill . . .
If we would have it so
The brotherhood of man must grow
Within our hearts each day
Fixed by humanity's warm glow;
The message that it bears
Can lift from a world of cares!
Peace and Goodwill to all . . .
This Christmas let us heed the call.

Anonymous

New Year

The commentator Matthew Henry wrote this resolution in his journal on 1 January 1705.

"Not renouncing, but repeating and ratifying all my former covenant with God, and lamenting it, that I have not lived up more closely to them; I do in the beginning of this New Year solemnly make a fresh surrender of myself, my whole self, body, soul and spirit, to God the Father Son and Holy Ghost, my creator, Redeemer and sanctifier, covenanting and promising, not in any strength of my own, for I am weak, but in the strength of the grace of Jesus Christ, that will endeavour this year to stand complete in all the will of God.

I know this is the Will of God, even my sanctification, Lord grant that this year I may be more holy and walk more closely than ever in all holy conversation; I earnestly desire to be filled with thy holy thoughts, to be carried out in holy affections, determined by holy aims and intentions, and governed in all my words and actions by holy principles. O that a golden thread of holiness may run through the whole web of the year."

A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR TO ALL.

Patricia

Epiphany

To journey
not knowing
but trusting
following
searching
seeking
wondering
hoping
daring
believing
such is the stuff
of faith

*Donald Schmidt
with permission*

The Baptism of Jesus

From Matthew 3: 13–17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John.¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."



Baptism of Christ by Perugino. Located in the Sistine Chapel. See this website for an explanation of the painting.

<https://www.tripimprover.com/blog/baptism-of-christ-by-perugino>

Extra Readings

- 1 January New Year's Day
Eccl 3: 1–13; Ps 8; Rev 21: 1–6a;
Mt 25: 31–46
- 1 January Holy Name of Jesus Day
Num 6: 22–27; Ps 8; Gal 4: 4–7 or Phil 2: 5–11; Lk 2: 15–21
- 6 January Epiphany
Is 60: 1–6; Ps 72: 1–7, 10–14;
Eph 3: 1–12 Mt 2: 1–12

*Do not boast about
tomorrow, for you do
not know what a day
may bring forth.*

Proverbs 27:1

From the Wider church

A Statement on the appointment of the Archbishop of Canterbury-designate

By Rev Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia

I share in the joy of the worldwide church in congratulating and warmly welcoming the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury-designate, The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE.

We rejoice in this historic moment: for the first time in a long history, a woman will serve as Archbishop of Canterbury. This is an affirmation of our deep and long-held belief that the gifts and call of the Holy Spirit are poured out freely, without boundary or restriction of gender, for the leadership of Christ's church. This appointment is a powerful witness that Christ's body cannot be whole without the love, vision, dedication, leadership and giftedness of women.

We give thanks for the many gifts Bishop Mullally will bring to this globally significant role. Her years of service in healthcare, and her Christian ministry as priest and bishop, now converge in her call to serve the whole Communion. We welcome her experience, faith, courage and compassion, trusting that these gifts will enrich the Church of England, the Anglican Church and the body of Christ across the world.

We assure Bishop Mullally of the prayers of the Uniting Church in Australia as she prepares for her enthronement next year and this new vocation of service. We pray that God will pour out upon her courage and wisdom, that she may listen deeply, lead with compassion, and call the church to grow in confidence in the Gospel of Christ.

Gracious God, we rejoice in this new way of your Spirit moving among us.

Bless Bishop Sarah Mullally as she begins this ministry.

Strengthen her in wisdom, humility and courage; sustain her family, colleagues, and the Church of England in faith and hope.

Guide the Anglican Communion under her leadership, that your Church may be a beacon of justice, compassion, and Christ's reconciling love to the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



One of the more remarkable stories in Australian church life is the Christmas Bowl.

A young Methodist minister, Rev Frank Byatt, took an initiative with a simple bowl and invited his church community to take part in what he called the "Christmas Bowl".

He had little idea that his idea would be taken up the way it has been and that we would in time be celebrating the 76th anniversary of its beginning.

As we focus on an empty bowl, we can imagine it being filled. We all take part and so our contributions combine to make a great impact. People in all sorts of settings will be cared for, supported, empowered and encouraged though the work of the Christmas Bowl.

I encourage you to take part and to share the hope we find in Christ.

Rev John Gilmore, President
National Council of Churches in Australia

PS The Carols Service and Christmas Day retiring offerings will go to the Christmas Bowl.



Uniting Food For Families collects non-perishable food items like canned soup, packets of pasta and baked beans, as well as household essential items including personal hygiene and cleaning products to support those in need.

We connect with local communities through schools, kindergartens, congregations, workplaces, community groups, individuals and families to make a difference.

Food, gifts and household essentials are distributed at our emergency relief programs, family services and outreach centres across Victoria and Tasmania.

Individuals and families are able to select food from our food pantry and choose the foods and items they need most when times are tough and bills stack up.

We also provide food that's easy to prepare to people experiencing homelessness.

You can place your donations in the boxes at the church.

Bible Word

Jesus is Obedience

Jesus was in the form of God [but] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2: 6–8.

Jesus experienced every sort of disadvantage in his life so that everyone could identify with him.

Conceived out of wedlock. "The angel Gabriel . . . came to Mary and said ' . . . you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and will call him Jesus'. And Mary said, 'How is this possible since I have no husband?'" Luke 1:27, 31, 34.

Born in dirt and poverty. "When her time came, Mary gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a [dirty, smelly] manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2: 7.

Jesus came into this world as a vulnerable baby, not as a king.

A refugee. "An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: 'Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt . . . for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'" Matthew 2: 13.

Grew up on the wrong side of the tracks. "Philip . . . found Nathaniel and said 'We have found him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth.' Nathaniel said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'" John 1: 45–46.

Was homeless. "The Son of man has no place to lay his head." Luke 9: 58.

Was pronounced guilty in a political trial. "Pilate

said, 'I find no crime in this man.' But the chief priests and the people shouted urgently, 'Crucify, crucify him!'" Luke 23: 4, 21.

Tortured. "The men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him." Luke 22: 63. "Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; and they came up to him, saying, 'Hail King of the Jews!' and struck him with their hands." John 19: 1–3.

Killed for challenging authority. "At the Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers at their business. And making a whip of cords he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple; and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables . . . And the Jews said to him 'What sign have you to show us for doing this?'" John 3:13

"After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered the council and said, 'What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.' . . . So from that day on they took council how to put him to death." John 11: 47–48, 53.

In an argument with the Jews about Abraham, Jesus finally says, "Before Abraham was, I am." Then they took up stones to throw at him [because he was uttering blasphemy by using the divine name "I am", making himself equal with God]. John 8: 59.

Andrea

A thespian in our midst

A few of us made the trip to see Don play the father in a play based on Jane Austen's *Emma* by Frankston Theatre Group.

With a cast of 12, multiple scene changes, thoughtful mood music and lighting it was a mammoth production lasting nearly two and a half hours.

Fortunately, the lead role, Emma, talked to the audience to help the audience understand her thoughts and keep us on

track of what was going on.

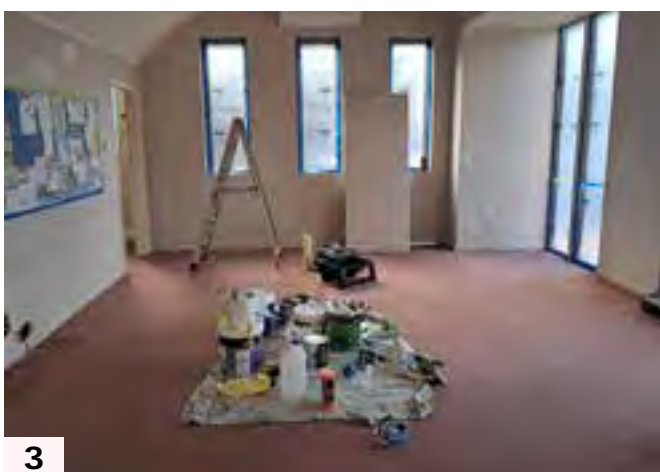
Don kept up his role as a fussy, old man with a British accent very well. A twinkle in his eyes showed he was having fun. We look forward to hearing some inside stories of how it all came together and his future plans. Meanwhile, we'll enjoy seeing and hearing the Don we know.

Cathy

Recently Seen

These photographs reflect recent people and activities at St John's.

1. A welcome visit by Christine and Stewart. 2a–2d. The mini fete included the card stall, Devonshire teas and much conversation in the sun. 3. East Room was recently painted. 4. Craft and Chat on Mondays also includes Rummikub. 5. October Friday Friends Lunch at Einstein's.



St John's Uniting Church Elsternwick

Christmas 2025

Advent Bible Study 1 led by Greg

Sunday 30 November after church. BYO lunch

The Angel Project

Friday 5 December 4pm–5.30pm

Advent Bible Study 2 led by Lynette

Sunday 7 December after church. BYO lunch

Peace Concert

Sunday 14 December 2.30pm

Sunday Night at St John's

Sunday 14 December 5.30pm

Annual Carols Service

Sunday 21 December 7.30pm

Christmas Bowl retiring offering

Christmas Day Service

Thursday 25 December 9.30am

Christmas Bowl retiring offering

Craft and Chat

Mondays 1pm–3pm

Chatty Cafe

Wednesdays 10am–12pm

Peace Vigil

Wednesday 3, 10 and 17 December 4pm–5pm

No Peace Vigil in January. Resumes in February.



All welcome



St John's Uniting Church, Elsternwick

Roster & Diary Dates for December 2025–January 2026

December	7 Advent 2*	14 Advent 3	21 Advent 4	25 Nativity 1	28 Christmas 1	December Diary Dates
Leader	Rev Dr L Dungan	Rev Dr L Dungan	Rev Dr L Dungan	Rev Dr L Dungan	Patricia McKay	Birthdays 22 Rod Events 3 Peace Vigil @ 4–5 5 The Angel Project @ 4–530 7 Advent Study 2 after church 10 Peace Vigil @ 4–5 14 Peace Concert @ 2.30 14 Sunday Nite at St John's @ 5.30 17 Peace Vigil @ 4–5 21 Annual Carols Service @ 7.30 25 Christmas Day Service @ 9.30 Weekly Craft & Chat Monday @ 1–3 Chatty Café Wednesday @ 10–12 * Holy Communion
Lectionary Readings	Is 11:1–10; Ps 72:1–7, 18–19; Rom 15:4–13; Mt 3:1–12	Is 35:1–10; Ps 146:5–10 or Lk 1:46b–55; Jas 5:7–10; Mt 11:2–11	Is 7:10–16 Ps 80:1–7, 17–19 Rom 1:1–7 Mt 1:18–25	Is 9:2–7; Ps 96; Tit 2:11–14; Lk 2:1–14, (15–20)	Is 63:7–9; Ps 148; Heb 2:10–18; Mt 2:13–23	
Prayer	Rod	Audrey	Cathy	Greg	Patricia	
Greeters	Geoff	Raj	Colin	Rhonda	Raj	
Readers	Cathy	Don	Audrey	Patricia	Alex	
Data Projector	Greg	Cathy	Greg	Cathy	Geoff	
Steward/Offering	Cathy/Andrea	Raj/Colin	Cathy/Colin	Cathy/Raj	Andrea/Raj	
Morning Tea	Patricia/Rod	Denise/Barbi	Rhonda/Audrey	—	Luchee/Alex	
Flowers	Alex	Rhonda	Audrey	Patricia	Patricia	

January	4 Christmas 2*	11 Baptism of Jesus	18 Epiphany 2	25 Epiphany 3	Carols Service 21 December @ 7.30pm Supper follows service	January Diary Dates
Leader	Worship & Nurture	Rev Dr L Dungan	Rev Dr L Dungan	Worship & Nurture		Birthdays 29 Audrey Events 30 Friday Friends Lunch @ 12.15 Weekly Craft & Chat Monday @ 1–3 Chatty Café Wednesday @ 10–12 * Holy Communion
Lectionary Readings	Jer 31:7–14; Ps 147:12–20; Eph 1:3–14; Jn 1:(1–9), 10–18	Is 42:1–9; Ps 29; Acts 10:34–43; Mt 3:13–17	Is 49:1–7; Ps 40:1–11; 1 Cor 1:1–9; Jn 1:29–42	Is 9:1–4; Ps 27:1, 4–9. 1 Cor 1:10–18; Mt 4:12–23		
Prayer	Audrey	Rod	Patricia	Audrey		
Greeters	Raj	Rhonda	Colin	Raj		
Readers	Alex	Don	Audrey	Geoff		
Data Projector	Geoff	Geoff	Geoff	Greg		
Steward/Offering	Andrea/Raj	Andrea/Raj	Raj/Colin	Andrea/Raj		
Morning Tea	Barbi/Patricia	Colin/Rod	Rhonda/Luchee	Alex/Denise		
Flowers	Patricia	Alex	Rhonda	Audrey		