

Minister's word



Sing!

As we come again to Lent and Easter, Seasons in the church that invite us to journey with the God revealed in Jesus Christ who formed communities in the past and present of care, peace and justice, I focus on what our congregation likes to do, sing!

Singing spiritual songs is a way of practising our faith. On reading chapter 13 Singing our Lives by Don E. Saliers, in Dorothy C. Bass's edited book *Practicing our Faith*¹, I find treasures to share that invite us to draw closer to God and one another. Saliers was a United Methodist minister and Director of the Sacred Music program in Candler School of Theology.

She reminds the readers that from our early years, in children's play, that simple songs and rhymes are sung. We sing nursery rhymes or skipping rhymes, sporting songs, school hymns and at church, spiritual songs and choruses. My pre-school granddaughter enjoyed and was amazed that grandma knew all the tunes in her big nursery rhyme book, and that her mother sang these rhymes when she was a little girl. We have oral traditions that can be lost if we do not sing together.

Singing can be a part of work. Many workers sing together at times like harvesting, picking fruit, doing manual labour, sea shanties sung out at sea by fisherfolk, and soldiers have marching songs. Significant also are the communal songs of loss and mourning, folk songs, family songs and national songs, the list goes on.

Saliers tells us that "the Christian church was born singing, singing the songs of ancient

Israel, the synagogue and the Greco-Roman world. Psalms and canticles formed the heart of prayer and the music of the earliest Christian assemblies" (Saliers in Bass, 1997,183). Saliers claimed that "when we lift our voices to God . . . we sing not alone, but in union with the whole creation and with our brothers and sisters through the ages" (184). Sometimes, I feel this when we worship, that our voices are magnified and join with others across the world in praising God. And with organist Ken's brilliant accompaniment, our small congregation sounds like a large choir. The hymns and songs we sing uplift our spirits and there is at least anecdotal evidence that singing in churches can extend people's lives, it builds community and is good for physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.

John Wesley called singing "a body of practical divinity". Our Easter services are a high point in the church's singing calendar. Belief commingles with depth of feeling as the hymns capture the sombre mood of the crucifixion on Good Friday and the joy and praise on Easter Sunday. Music at these times stirs memories and emotions and weaves our lives together to bring the presence of God alive amongst us. We also sing songs about justice, peace, protest and lament that can affect us deeply. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, twentieth century minister and writer imprisoned during Hitler's regime, in his book *Life Together*, said "it is not you that sings it is the church that is singing, and you, as a member . . . may share its song".

We have in our congregation, a gifted songwriter, and musicians, and we appreciate songs of praise, ancient and modern. Whatever, your taste in music and whether you consider

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/>

yourself a singer, or not, let us this Lent and Easter, act as the Psalmist in Psalm 100 verse one instructs, and “make a joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth”. And may the songs of our lives join the heavenly chorus of those who sing and play to the Glory of God.

¹ Dorothy C. Bass, Ed. *Practicing our Faith*, Jossey-Bass, 1997.



Lent and Easter Blessings

Rev Dr Lynette Dungan

A whisper

What a blast and a wind up for everyone.

Our musicians brought the community together.

Both in unity, respect and love.

Greg on his double bass, Jeff on sax.

A young woman Dafna and some choristers.

We were all blessed with nationalities singing and praying for peace.

The Peace Vigils played a role.

The Prayer Tree;

It opens hearts by a blessing.

“God Be With You”.

Unfortunately the attack on our neighbors on Bondi; hits hard. In response the entrance to our place of worship, we draped in black cloth in a mark of respect.

The Christmas Carol Service proved joyous in the presence of a choir of little people.

They were exuberant and joyful. The love of their life.

The infant, the little ones. Proclaiming Christ.

Gwen

Peace Vigil
Wednesdays 4–5

Bible Word

Peace

What a can of worms this word opened up.

PEACE is used in just about every book in the Bible and in many different ways.

1. Peace or reconciliation with God by satisfaction of sins committed against him through the sufferings and merits of Christ (Eph 2:14).
2. Peace within ourselves or our own conscience, from our reconciliation with God as the gift of Christ and wrought in us by the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17; Phil 4:7).
3. Submission to the will of God (Job 22:21).
4. Peace with men (a) with Christian brethren (Gal 5:22), (b) with our enemies (Prov 16:19).
5. Peace as opposed to war (a) when a kingdom enjoys tranquillity, free from foreign or civil wars (2 Kings 20:19); (b) when the church is not split by schisms or being persecuted (Ps 122:7, Acts 9:31, Rev 6:4); (c) a treaty between kings (1 Kings 5:12).
6. The salutations of Paul in the beginning of his epistles (e.g., Rom 1:7, 1 Cor 1:3).
7. The peace that comes to the saints in heaven (Isa 57:2, 2 Pet 3:14).
 - Peace be unto you, fear not (Judges 6:23).
 - Peace be within your walls (Ps 122:7).
 - Peace be within you (Ps 122:8).
 - Peace be yours in abundance (1 Pet 1:2, 2 Pet 1:2, Jude 2).
 - Peace be with you (John 20:19,21,26). Peace to all of you who are in Christ (1 Pet 5:14).
 - In Peace (Gen 26:29, Ps 4:8, Isa 26:3, Mal 2:6, Luke 2:29, 2 Cor 13:11, 2 Pet 3:14).
 - God of Peace (Rom 15:33, 2 Cor 13:11, 1 Thess 5:23, Heb 13:20).

References

Crudens Complete Concordance.

Holy Bible NIV.

Andrea

Kind words bring life but cruel words crush your spirit.

Proverbs 15:4

Church Council November Report

The November meeting of Church Council was updated on the continuing work and correspondence regarding securing a long-term lease for Caulfield South Community House (CSCH) at the Kooyong Road buildings. Correspondence to and from Synod Property and Operations Committee (P&O Cmt) has been encouraging, with a response from P&O Cmt indicating that the Synod guidelines for the leasing of church buildings need to be reviewed before they make a decision; unfortunately this work does not have a time-frame. Church Council approved a further letter to be sent to P&O Cmt, including a request for our congregation to have input into any review of Synod processes and for a decision to be made regarding CSCH before this work is done.

The Mission workbook for property use and a letter was sent to the Presbytery Property Committee to outline the importance of our partnership with CSCH and assist with their support for the lease. A huge amount of time and effort by Cathy and Greg went into the preparation of the documentation; the diligent keeping of attendance records by Audrey was also most useful in this process.

Our relationship with CSCH continues to be an important part of the church's ministry and mission. As CSCH is at capacity for the programmes it runs at Kooyong Road, thought is being put into ways that the Glen Huntly Road buildings might be used, with Cathryn being a welcoming presence. Representatives from the church and CSCH met to discuss possibilities in early December.

Property improvements and maintenance continue to be made. Church Council approved the installation of split systems for the hall (they have now been installed, and hirers are most appreciative) and hand dryers in the toilets to reduce the paper waste.

Council approved the request to increase the congregation's Mission and Service contribution to \$20,076 for 2026, an increase of 2%. This is the congregation's contribution to support the work of Presbytery and the wider Synod.

Planning for the Advent and Christmas events was well underway at the time of

the November meeting. Reports on these are included in this edition of *Link*. A sign advertising all of the activities was provided and erected by Woodards Real Estate.

It was decided that the Light a Candle sessions at CSCH will continue in 2026, with dates and times to be confirmed as soon as possible.

As mentioned in the last Church Council report, Lynette has committed to a further six months of supply with us, working at 0.4 time. Her work as Senior Lecturer at St Francis Theological College in Queensland will increase to 0.5 in February.

The Council affirmed the role of the Community Engagement Facilitator and has committed to Cathryn continuing in the role in 2026.

The Peace Vigil is an important part of the life of the congregation and will continue in 2026. There will be a break from 17 December until Wednesday 4 February, when the Vigil will resume.

Monday afternoon Craft, Games and Chat, and Wednesday morning Chatty Café will both continue to meet throughout December and January.

Planning for 2026

As part of deepening the relationship between St John's and Caulfield South Community House, Greg, Cathryn and Cathy met with Patsy and John Cowen in December. We decided to explore offering some new activities at Elsternwick which are unable to be run at the House. We are seeking interest in table tennis, book club, chair exercises before finalising details. If you have comments or other suggestions please let us know.

Cathryn

Thank you

Wendy and Jeff wish to thank the congregation for your support and prayers in 2025 and 2026.



World Day of Prayer
Friday 6 March
Nigeria

Social Justice Calendar

February 2026

- 1-7 World Interfaith Harmony Week
- 6 International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- 13 2008: Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations
- 17 Shrove Tuesday
- 18 Ash Wednesday First day of Lent
- 20 World Day of Social Justice

March 2026

- 1 Zero Discrimination Day
- 1 Clean Up Australia Day
- 3 World Wildlife Day
- 6 World Day of Prayer and International Day of Unplugging
- 8 International Women's Day
- 17-23 Harmony Week
- 19 National Close the Gap Day
- 21 Harmony Day
- 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 28 Earth Hour (8.30pm-9.30pm)
- 24 International Day for the Right to the Truth
- 28 Earth Day
- 29 Palm Sunday
- 31 International Transgender Day of Visibility

Source: Justice and International Mission

Ministry of Flowers

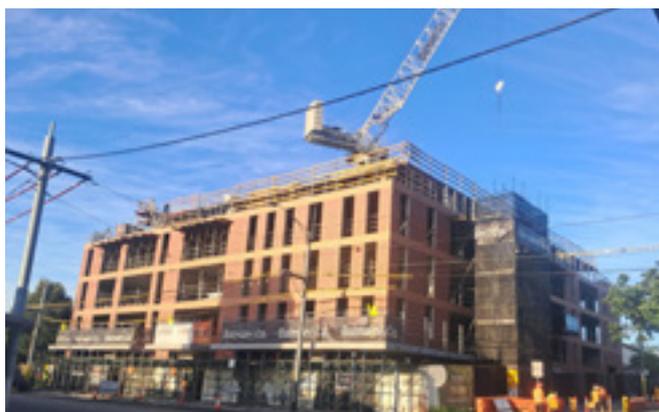


From the noticeboard



Sign of the Times

Buildings coming down, buildings going up



[Link](#) February-March 2026 page 4 of 13

The Angel Project

The church buildings were abuzz with activity on the afternoon of Friday 5 December, when *The Angel Project* took place. It was a time of Christmas craft activities and story-time, followed by a sausage sizzle, for pre-schoolers and their families. A number of families from the Elsternwick Toddlers' Playgroup attended, together with others from the wider community.

There were angels aplenty, miniature Christmas trees to make, biscuits to ice and decorate and other things to make and do that the children could take home. (I'm not sure how many of the biscuits made it home!!). Congregation members were at each of the activity tables, engaging with the children and families.

Two large "stained-glass" angels were decorated by the children and displayed in the church buildings – one at the car park entrance and one on the windows in the East Room. One child in particular enjoyed this activity – a photo of he and his mother with one of the angels is here for you to see. Permission has been granted for this photo to be published.

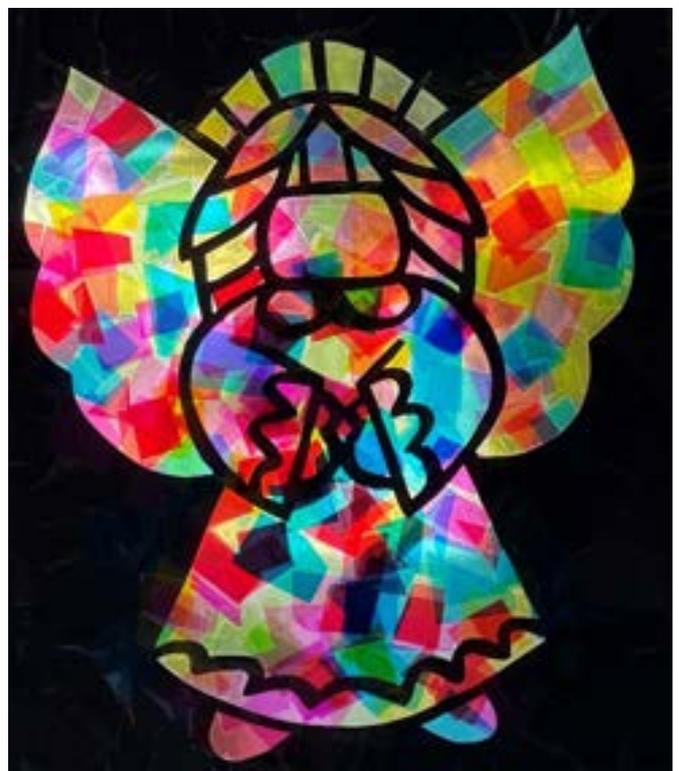
Cathryn took the children into the church for a telling of the story of the first Christmas, as told by Dick Bruna – a simple telling of the story, appropriate for the very young children in attendance.

The event ended with the sharing of sausages in bread, and ice-cream in a cone. Thanks to Rod for cooking the BBQ. Rod had many conversations at the BBQ with those parents who were supervising children who ventured outside.

The event was warmly received by the families, with many positive comments being made on the day. The efforts of the congregation in putting on the event were praised. It was a great way for us to be present to the young families in our community and to share who we are. It would not have been possible without the support of congregation members.

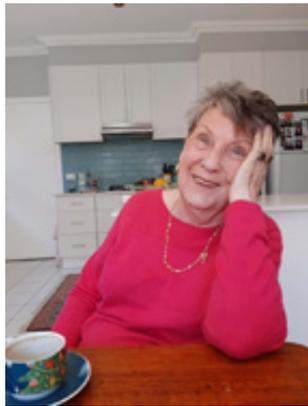
Thank you, one and all.

Cathryn



Margaret's journey back to connection

When Margaret moved in with her mother to care for her during illness, life changed dramatically. Once a social butterfly with a wide circle of friends, Margaret suddenly found herself isolated. After years of caring, she longed for connection.



That all changed on one day in March 2025. While shopping at her local Woolworths, Margaret noticed a poster for the St John's Chatty Café and Connect Local Neighbour Day event. It was close to home, and she decided to go along. At the event, she met new people, won a raffle, and signed up for Connect Local. From that moment, she never looked back.

"Walking into St John's Elsternwick that day changed my life," Margaret says. "It has put me back in circulation and I'm feeling much brighter and sociable. It has changed my life."

Envirotip

Something does not work at your place? Get a new one to replace it. *Wait!*

Think about visiting the **St Kilda Repair Cafe** located at the Port Phillip EcoCentre, 55A Blessington Street, St Kilda (Melway 58B11). The Cafe opens on the first Sunday each month between 2pm and 5pm.

The website states a "volunteer group of fixers and menders" aim to "keep more items out of landfill, help attendees learn how to repair, give the items a second life and live more sustainably!" Check the website:

<https://www.stkildarepaircafe.org.au/>



Link February–March 2026 page 6 of 13

What started as a casual visit to the St John's Chatty Café has become a weekly highlight. "I thought I'd go occasionally, but now I want to go every week. I've enjoyed meeting interesting and lovely people."

Margaret is now a member of Friends of Connect Local, sharing her story about how much Connect Local and St John's Chatty Café has made such a positive difference to her life.

We are lucky to have Margaret as part of our Friends of Connect Local group. Her energy and enthusiasm have brought so much joy to the community, and her experience is a powerful reminder of how easily disconnection can sneak up on us and how community can truly transform lives.

Source: *Connect Local December 2025 Newsletter*. Reproduced with permission.

Connect Local contact details

Free call: 1800 929 022

Email: enquiries@connectlocal.org.au

Website: <https://www.connectlocal.org.au/>

Cuppa

There never seems to be a better time to have a cuppa than that particular moment, the single instant when you choose to sit with a friend. The warmth of conversation, the vibrance and excitement. Hey, we have things in common. Eyes light up, my whole face lit up in what my neighbour was saying.

Gwen



At left: A smokey sunset over Port Phillip Bay resulting from the tragic bushfires in January. From Colin.

Concert for Peace



Above left to right Cathryn, Ruby, Jeff, Phil and Greg. Below Dafna and Marnie.

Earlier in the year, the church organised a Blessing of the Peace Pole and Prayer Tree, supported by some live music. That led to the idea of a concert before Christmas to further celebrate continuing hopes for Peace.

On Sunday 14 December, space was cleared in the East Room. The time began with Greg and Jeff Karutz performing "We Wait", a song by Greg to acknowledge the "waiting" involved in hopes, prayers and actions for peace.

This was followed by Archie Roach's "Let Love Rule", which speaks to the ongoing importance of Love in the world. After a couple of jazz and Van Morrison numbers, Cathryn performed a song about the simplicity of the Christ's birth, as the "turning point" of time.

join, spoke to hope and joy in the future of the next generations. Marnie Sather joined Greg for Ruth Parker's "Back to Loves Strong Arms", about the importance and possibilities of reaching out to others struggling to find peace in their own lives.

Another highlight was being joined by Dafna, who met members of our congregation during one of our Peace Vigils. Dafna sang traditional and contemporary Hebrew songs including themes of reflection, healing and peace.

The afternoon finished with a song about seeking and taking action for peace (see next page), in which everyone participated. The song references our Wednesday vigils.

It was great to see the refurbished East Room full – mostly with people whom we have met through our community programs, coming together for a common interest and purpose.

We returned home to the news of the shootings at Bondi. Dafna shared with me the contrast of the hopefulness of that time together, compared with the violence going on at the same time.

It was a stark reminder of the continued importance of seeking peace and safety for all of our communities.

Greg



Phil Higgins continued with blues and folk covers. Having Phil's talented daughter Ruby

St John's responds

After the Peace Concert, we learned of the horror of the Bondi shootings. As a visible sign of grief and support for our neighbours at Hamerkaz Synagogue and others, St John's draped black fabric along the rails at the front of the church. See photo at right.



Peace Tram Stop 48

By Greg

She sits on a chair at the roadside
Sees the world go by in trams
Thinks of war in far away places
Thinks of children in a burnt-out land
What can we do about foreign places?
With spirit calling us to make a stand?

We cry Peace, Peace
When the children cry, we can only cry
Peace, Peace, Peace

Can there be peace without justice?
Will history hold us, evermore?
Greed and power and poverty mixes
No way to ever even the score.
Peace is work, and its political pressure
On those with power, to stop the wars

We cry Peace, Peace
When the children cry, we can only cry
Peace Peace Peace

We need that peace on our roadside
Too much fear is around in this land
Got to make our peace with our history
Peace is work, Peace is making a stand
Let's look in our hearts, at what is closer?
Can we find peace
As it knocks on our door?

And as the trams go by
We hear the women cry
We see the fathers die
We can only try ...
Peace – as the trams go by
Peace – hear the women cry
Peace – the captives die ...
Peace – peacemakers try
Peace – as the trams go by
Peace – we can only try
Peace – For the passers-by
Peace – And for you and I
Peace Peace Peace.

For Audrey



Link February–March 2026 page 8 of 13

Lenten fasting

Lent, a 40-day spiritual season for Christians around the world, begins on Ash Wednesday 18 February and lasts to the 2 April 2026. It is a time to fast, reorder our lives and take stock of our relationship with God. Here are some ideas for fasting this Lent. These range from the more traditional food fasting to fasting from certain activities or items.

Fast from the media

Media has become a huge part of our daily lives. What media do you use most often? This Lent, you might give up Netflix or Facebook, or another form of media you generally spend time or money on.

Fast from criticism and complaining

During Lent 2026, focus on using kind and positive words. Think about the way you use words and interact with others instead? Fasting from criticism and complaining can be a great way to focus on how you express yourself.

Get in touch

Use this Lent season to re-connect or check in with 40 different people in your life. This is another way Lent can help you to take stock of your life and think about the things you focus on. The way you try to connect with others can differ from person to person – it may be a handwritten card, a LinkedIn message to a former colleague or a phone call to someone you have been meaning to contact.

Dine in for 40 days

You might like to commit yourself to dining in for 40 days. Eating out and take aways cost a lot over a few weeks. Why not eat at home or bring your own food when you go out.

Regardless of your approach to Lent, any money saved can be donated to Lent Event operated by UnitingWorld, the international aid organisation of the Uniting Church in Australia.

In 2026, the Lent Event is standing with people who are on the frontline of changing climate, with emphasis on our neighbour Timor Leste.

UntingWorld invites you to donate, take up a climate challenge, and keep faith. More details are at <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/lent-event>

Drawn from Elisa Samuel, *7 ways to fast for Lent* at <https://sa.uca.org.au/>



From the wider church

Victorian Bushfires

**By Rev Salesi Faupula, Moderator
Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania**

As bushfires continued to cause devastation in North-east Victoria, Uniting Church Moderator Rev Salesi Faupula offered the following words writing on 9 January: "As fires continue across our region, including North East Victoria Presbytery and spreading, the situation seems uncertain and we pause as a Church to wait together before God. We hold in prayer all who are at risk, all who have been displaced, and all who are responding to the ongoing emergency.

Faithful God,

As fires continue and the outcome remains uncertain,
we wait upon you.

Hold in your care all who are at risk,
all who have evacuated
and all who watch and wait with anxious hearts.

Grant protection through the night and steadiness in the days ahead.

We pray for those responding to the fires: give them strength, wisdom and safety as conditions change and dangers persist.

In this time of waiting,
keep us attentive to one another,
rooted in compassion,
and trusting in your abiding presence.

Through Christ,
who waits with us in every trial.

Amen

For those unaffected who would like to express their support, please consider giving to the Moderator's Emergency Response Fund via this link:

<https://victas.uca.org.au/product/moderators-emergency-response-fund/>



Bondi

**By Rev Charissa Suli
President Uniting Church in Australia**

The Uniting Church in Australia expresses its deep sorrow following the attack at Bondi Beach, which NSW Police have identified as a terrorist act.

Link February–March 2026 page 9 of 13

The violence occurred while families and children were gathered to celebrate the start of Hanukkah, a long-held religious tradition, in peace. What should have been a time of joy, faith and community was instead marked by fear and devastation.

We grieve the lives lost and hold in prayer all who have been injured, traumatised and affected.

As the Uniting Church in Australia, we unequivocally state that any attack on families and children gathered peacefully to celebrate faith is utterly unacceptable. We name and reject antisemitism in all its forms. Violence and hatred must never have the final word.

"We reaffirm our commitment to stand with our Jewish friends against hatred, violence, and fear."

We stand in solidarity with the Jewish community and commit ourselves again to compassion, peace, and care for one another. We reaffirm our commitment to stand with our Jewish friends against hatred, violence, and fear. This horrifying moment reminds us as a nation that the safety and dignity of our neighbours must never be taken for granted and that protecting one another, especially children and those targeted for their faith, is a shared responsibility.

The Uniting Church affirms the dignity of every person and the right of all people to gather, worship, and celebrate their traditions without fear or violence.

At moments like this, when terror seeks to unsettle our sense of safety and unity, we reject fear, hatred, and division. As a Christian church, shaped by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, we are called to speak with moral clarity and to act with deep compassion.

We give thanks for the courage and care of first responders, health workers, and all who have supported those affected during this time.

We invite the church and the wider community to join us in prayer and quiet reflection for all who are grieving today.

The Uniting Church continues to hold in prayer the Jewish community, the families and children impacted, and the wider community as it grieves and seeks healing.

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

Project drives shared future

Synod of Victoria/Tasmania

Faithful Futures, the shared strategic direction for the Uniting Church across Victoria and Tasmania, will guide our ministry and mission for the next decade.

It was developed collaboratively through consultation, research, prayer and discernment. It was adopted at the 2025 Synod Meeting and is being adopted by all presbyteries.

Faithful Futures is grounded in the dreams, hopes and vision of where we believe the Spirit is calling the Church across Victoria and Tasmania. It reflects both ministry already under way and our dreams for the future, still to be realised.

At the heart of Faithful Futures is the vision of "following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation".

There are five shared goals that will guide and shape the Church to live out this vision.

These goals are:

- *Coordinated Ministries*: Coordinated ministry and mission in geographic areas such as local government areas by 2030: attentive to renewing discipleship, and to the life and needs of the local context.
- *Respecting Country*: Honouring the Church's Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, all communities of faith will listen to and be able to tell about some of the histories 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 provide appropriate intercultural leadership formation and equipping for all ministry agents and congregations; and develop intercultural networks for worship, witness and service.
- *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.
- *New Communities of Faith*: Establish at new Christian communities by 2030.

What is hoped it will achieve?

Faithful Futures is more than a strategy; it is a growth toward a shared, vibrant future – one where congregations, presbyteries and the Synod can truly say they are seeing new ways

of working together that enhance worship, witness and service.

The five goals will support this shared future when they are understood less as separate goals and more as an ecosystem, working together to encourage growth in faith, the making of disciples and ministry that responds to the local context.

The hope for the future is of ministry and mission coordinated across geographic areas in ways that support the development of vibrant and healthy intergenerational communities, that make space for new forms of Christian community to emerge and be supported and the strengthening of intercultural leaders and communities of faith.

The five shared goals will "encourage growth in faith, the making of disciples and ministry that responds to the local context", writes Rev Sharon Hollis.

Woven through all of this will be a deep respect for Country that arises from listening to and acting on the stories of Country.

By working together across the Church on shared goals we also hope to see deeper collaboration across the councils of the Church, an increased capacity to learn from each other, more willingness to experiment and share that experimentation and a more coordinated use of the resources of the whole Church.

What are the next steps?

The implementation phase is now under way. A next steps day was held in late September bringing presbyteries and the Synod together. The day helped them reflect on how to work together to support the implementation of Faithful Futures across the Church.

The day also continued to develop the next steps that need to be taken to help make Faithful Futures a reality.

Presbyteries and the Synod are now focusing on ways they can start incorporating the five goals into their ministry and mission, ensuring the vision remains at the centre of all our work.

The Faithful Futures Steering Committee is being established with membership from every presbytery and the Synod. Rev Isabel Greenall is steering committee chair.

The steering committee and Faithful Futures more broadly will be supported by a Faithful Futures implementation lead, and we are currently recruiting for this role.

Working groups for each goal will be established over the next few months.

These groups will support goal implementation through resource development and sharing, and bringing together those who are working on one or more of the goals in their context.

The steering committee and the goal-focused groups will help ensure there is coordination across the Church, as together we begin to implement Faithful Futures.

Faithful Futures is an invitation to the whole Church to consider how we best organise our life together so that we might listen deeply to Country and be better able to see and participate in the new things God is doing.

Source: <https://victas.uca.org.au/news-events/news/>

Recipe

Vegan dan dan salad

4 serves



Salad Ingredients

300g baby bok choy
300g fresh or frozen ramen noodles
300g corn kernels from 2 corn cobs
2 tablespoons toasted white sesame seeds
2 green onions, trimmed and thinly sliced
chilli oil to serve
sea salt

Dan Dan dressing ingredients

2 tablespoons tahini
2 tablespoons chilli oil
1 tablespoon soy sauce
2 teaspoons black or rice vinegar
2 teaspoons white sugar
1 garlic clove, grated
2-3 tablespoons water

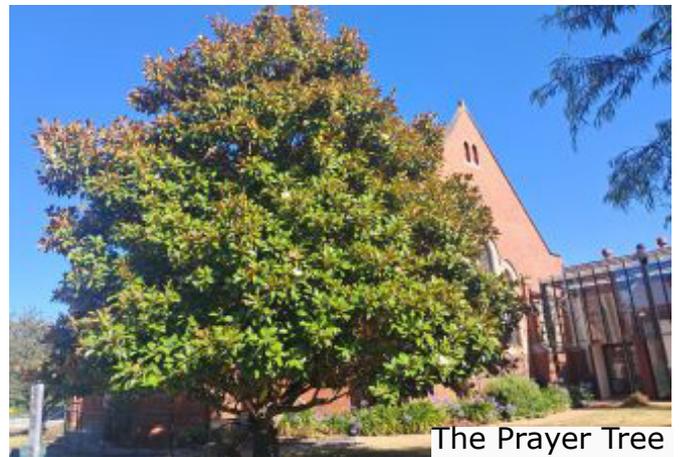
Directions

1. Separate the white and green parts of the baby bok choy. Slice the white parts into thick pieces. Place in a colander and

rinse well to remove any dirt or sediment. Drain.

2. Bring a large saucepan of salted water to the boil. Add the ramen and cook according to packet instructions until al dente (fresh ramen usually takes 3-4 minutes). About 1½ minutes before the noodles are ready, add the white parts of the baby bok choy and the corn, and just before everything is ready, throw in the green leaves too and blanch until they are wilted. Drain immediately and refresh under cold running water, then leave to drain and cool.
3. Dan dan dressing. Whisk together the tahini, chili oil, soy sauce, vinegar, sugar and garlic until a chunky paste forms. Add 2 tablespoons of milk to start with and whisk another tablespoon if needed until the dressing is smooth and pourable. The dressing should have the consistency of cream.
4. Place the ramen noodles, greens and corn into a large shallow bowl, add the dressing and toss to coat. Top with the sesame seeds, green onion and a few drops of chilli oil. Taste and season with salt. Serve at room temperature.

Alex G.



The Prayer Tree

- Craft and Chat Mondays @1-3
- Chatty Café Wednesdays @10-12
- Friday Friends Last Friday @12.15pm
- Sunday Nite Live 2nd Sunday in the month @5.30. BYO food to share
- Reflection at CSCH 22 February, 22 March @5pm
- Peace Vigil Wednesdays @ 4-5

Pancake Day
Sunday 15 February

Recently Seen

1. Advent study. 2a and b Chatty Cafe Carols and Christmas. 3. Marnie and Greg at the Peace Concert. 4a and b. Patricia and Rod at the Angel Project. 5a to d. Singing and fellowship at the Annual Carols Service. 6. Bondi vigil candle outside the church. 7. Patricia and Audrey led the Worship and Nurture services in December and January. 8. Rod's 70th birthday cake. 9. Games at Craft and Chat.



St John's Uniting Church, Elsternwick

Roster & diary dates for February and March 2026

February	1 Epiphany 4	8 Epiphany 5	15 Transfiguration of Jesus	22 Lent 1		February Diary Dates
Leader	Rev Dr Lynette Dungan*	Rev Dr Lynette Dungan	Rev Dr Lynette Dungan	Cathy McNicol		Birthdays 20 Jane 27 Pauline Events 8 Sunday Night @ St John's @ 5.30 15 Pancake Day 22 Reflection at CSCH @ 5 27 Friday Friends @ 12.15 Weekly Craft & Chat Monday @ 1-3 Chatty Café Wednesday @ 10-12 Peace Vigil Wednesdays @ 4-5 * Holy Communion
Lectionary Readings	Mic 6:1-8; Ps 15; 1 Cor 1:18-31; Mt 5:1-12	Is 58:1-9a (9b-12); Ps 112:1-9 (10) ; 1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16); Mt 5:13-20	Ex 24:12-18; Ps 2 or Ps 99; 2 Pt 1:16-21; Mt 17:1-9	Gn 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Ps 32; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11		
Prayer	Patricia	Cathy	Greg	Audrey		
Greeters	Raj	Rhonda	Raj	Colin		
Readers	Audrey	Don	Cathy	Alex		
Data Projector	Cathy	Greg	Geoff	Geoff		
Steward/Offering	Andrea/Raj	Cathy/Raj	Cathy/Raj	Andrea/Colin		
Morning Tea	Patricia/Colin	Luchee/Barbie	Rhonda/Alex	Audrey/Denise		
Flowers	Patricia	Rhonda	Audrey	Alex		

March	1 Lent 2	8 Lent 3	15 Lent 4	22 Lent 5	29 Palm Sunday	March Diary Dates
Leader	Rev Dr Lynette Dungan*	Worship and Nurture	Rev Dr Lynette Dungan	Rev Dr Lynette Dungan	Dr Greg Smith	March Birthdays 19 Patricia Events 8 Sunday Night @ St John's @ 5.30 15 Annual General Meeting 22 Reflection at CSCH @ 5 27 Friday Friends @ 12.15 Weekly Craft & Chat Monday @ 1-3 Chatty Café Wednesday @ 10-12 Peace Vigil Wednesdays @ 4-5 * Holy Communion
Lectionary Readings	Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 121; Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; Jn 3:1-17 or Mt 17:1-9	Ex 17:1-7; Ps 95; Rom 5:1-11; Jn 4:5-42	1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 23; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41	Ez 37:1-14; Ps 130 ; Rom 8:6-11; Jn 11:1-45	Is 50:4-9a; Ps 118:1-2,19- 29; Phil 2:5-11; Mt 21:1-11	
Prayer	Patricia	Audrey	Greg	Lynette	Audrey	
Greeters	Raj	Alex	Rhonda	Colin	Raj	
Readers	Alex	--	Don	Cathy	Geoffrey	
Data Projector	Cathy	Geoff	Cathy	Geoff	Cathy	
Steward/Offering	Andrea/Raj	Cathy/Andrea	Cathy/Raj	Cathy/Colin	Andrea/Raj	
Morning Tea	Patricia/Colin	Rhonda/Barbie	Audrey/Geoff	Denise/Barbie	Alex/Luchee	
Flowers	Patricia	Audrey	Rhonda	Alex	Alex	