

Minister's word

In the beginning of the Advent Season at the end of November there is a lot of preparation to do. The roads get busier for travel and shopping, and we gather with friends and family and to worship God. Our hands offer and share food and gifts of love.

As I get older, I do things differently. When I was younger, if I needed to travel, I packed and planned at the last minute, throwing clothes and toiletries into a suitcase the night before. Now I spend time thinking about what I need. I will often take over a week, gradually adding things to a suitcase. My hands do things in a more measured way and at a less frenetic pace. Taking time involves a different mindset, acknowledging that life involves waiting, choosing, and anticipating. Likewise, when preparing to receive guests or when going to someone else's home, I often prepare food in advance. And, if someone offers to bring a plate, and use their hands to serve or clean, I receive this help gladly. I see the work of our hands as a gift in each stage of life with an invitation to notice blessings.

Here, I remember the story of two faithful older folk in Luke's gospel, Anna and Simeon. Anna, in Luke chapter 2 verse thirty-six, called a prophet, is "of a great age". She has served faithfully over many years. Anna enthusiastically praised God when Jesus came to the temple to be presented. Anna tells everyone about this special child who will be a redeemer. Simeon, in chapter 2 verses 25–35, blesses Jesus' parents Joseph and Mary and takes the child Jesus in his arms and breaks forth into a hymn. This hymn begins by Simeon thanking God that he has lived long enough to behold God's plan of salvation. You get the sense that both these

seniors knew how to wait and at the appointed time bless others with their hands and voices.

I share Jan L Richardson's meditation, Bless the hands, from *Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas*, United Church Press, 1998, p. 87.

Bless the hands
smooth, subtle
that create with power;
rough, weathered
that touch with integrity;
scarred, bent
that move with grace;
dark, pale
that work for justice.

Bless the hands
shackled, free
that point toward peace;
graceful longing
that tend the weary;
young, old
that fed the children;
yours, mine
that move the world.

May we use our hands and voices in ways that
bless others.

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 Wednesday and Friday

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 and Community Engagement August Report

Church Council met on 12 August and spent time reflecting on God's mission in our community and the opportunities before us as we continue to serve and grow together. The reflection focused on Luke 4:16–21 and Proverbs 29:18, encouraging us to pay attention to what God is doing both locally and globally and to respond faithfully to God's leading.

Cathy, Cathryn and Greg reported back on the 6-week Mission Course they participated in at Ormond UCA, noting that they felt affirmed in the missional activities of our congregation and that it was great to share with like-minded people, learn from others' experience and build relationships for possible future collaboration.

Our new Grief and Loss Support Group commenced in August. Each week has had one new participant, as well as one person who has come every week. Greg was interviewed about the group on community radio station, Southern FM, and promoted the group well.

By the time this edition of *Link* is published, the Concert for Peace on 20 September will have taken place. A detailed report will be included in the next *Link*.

A Mini Fete will be held on Saturday 31 October. Cathy McNicol and Alex Elliott are coordinating the event. Various groups are being invited to participate, with stalls hoped to include plants (BRASA), books, artworks by Greg

God's World

Christ began and ended His earthly career in the belief that this was God's world, and not His; while we begin and end it under the conviction that the world is ours, and not God's. And it is safe to conclude that, after all, this is God's world.

For that reason the tide of righteousness should be on the flood, while the tide of vice should be on the ebb; and a little observation will show that this is not to be true.

For there is not ever an environment so perfect that a man could not find fault with it if he had a bitter soul, nor an environment so full of hardship that a man could not find some comfort in it if he was willing to look and knew where to look.

G H Hepworth
from *Still Waters*
from Patricia

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Kiernan, Lions Christmas cake and puddings, and Devonshire teas. Elsternwick Toddlers Playgroup has also been invited to participate in the day to showcase what they have to offer the community.

Preparations have commenced for our Christmas events, including the Angel Project Christmas Event for Preschoolers on Friday 4 December, and a Carol Service on Sunday 20 December (date to be confirmed).

A Facebook page has now been established for the congregation and will be updated regularly with news, events and stories from our church community. This will provide another way for people to stay connected with the life of the congregation. If you are on Facebook, search for *Elsternwick-Caulfield South Uniting Church*. Our profile picture is a candle.

Lynette Dungan reported on ongoing pastoral connections within the congregation and highlighted September's Season of Creation as an important worship focus.

At time of writing this report, the kitchen renovations have not yet started, but are expected to be underway by the time *Link* is published.

As the end of the year fast approaches, Council thanks everyone who contributes to the life of St John's through worship, fellowship, pastoral care and community engagement. Together we continue to share God's hospitality, peace and care with our neighbourhood.

Cathryn and Cathy

Ministry of Flowers



Gloriosa Lily

45 Years of Service

Rod Dungan has provided more than 45 years of service to young people and their families, as youth minister and chaplain.

We wonder about how many conversations, acts of support, recognition, understanding, and care have contributed to the lives of countless young people and their families over this time.

Rod has been a mentor, teacher and support to many counsellors, teachers, and carers. These include the widely read psychologist Andrew Fuller.

We wonder about the "ripples in the pond": the

ways that these insights and contributions are being passed onto others.

These commitments have their demands and costs. Supporting the vulnerable with integrity, demands its own vulnerability.

These years of service were recognised at a recent conference of Uniting Church Chaplains, by our moderator Selesi Faupula.

We also honour Rod's continuing, disciplined, "under the radar" support and contributions to the life of our community.

Greg



A Garden Recipe

First plant five rows of peas,
Patience, promptness, and preparation,
Purity and perseverance.
Next plant three rows of squash,
Squash gossip, squash criticism,
Squash indifference.
Then plant four rows of lettuce,
Let us be faithful to duty,
Let us be loyal and unselfish,
Let us be faithful to obligations,
Let us love one another.
No garden is complete without turnips.
Turn up to meetings,
Turn up with a smile,
Turn up with the determination to make
everything count for something good and
worthwhile.

Mary Franklin
St Stephen's Newsletter,
Winter 1999

Sermon themes

- Neither death, nor life
- Receiving a Blessing
- Sinking and rising up: stories of hope
- Like a bridge over troubled waters: Heart choices
- Resistance and God's purpose
- The path of the cross
- Trees as icons: Teaching us to see and trust God
- The Land as Witness and Bearer of Life
- Finding Grace Living Grace
- Recognising the Spirit in others, grace, and falling upwards.

- Craft and Chat Mondays @1-3
- Chatty Café Wednesdays @10-12
- Friday Friends Last Friday @12.15pm
- Sunday at St John's 2nd Sunday in the month @5.30. BYO food to share
- Peace Vigil Wednesdays @4-5

EnviroTip

Reduce your plastic use.
Use reusable containers.

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

Presbytery Report

The third Presbytery-in-Council (PIC) meeting was held by Zoom on Wednesday 5 August 2026 when sixty-six attended.

Rev Sam Joo, minister at the Uniting by the Bay Chelsea Carrum, led the worship starting with readings from 2 Timothy 3: 14–17, 4: 16–18 and Luke 18: 6–8. He continued by addressing the issues of multiculturalism and the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Uniting Church.

Business items were briefly discussed before the PIC elected the following three representatives for the 18th Assembly to be held in Adelaide in July: Rev Jay Robinson, Presbytery Minister, Team Leader; Ann Kim, Presbytery Secretary and Rev Cam McAdam, Minister at the Village Church, Mt Eliza.

Elga Rodriguez, Disability Inclusion Advocate at Discipleship and Advocacy at eLM, spoke on disability inclusion in the Uniting Church. She addressed the 3C Guidelines which are *Compliments, Concerns and Complaints*.

These overarching principles, approved by the UCA Assembly in July 2024, address three groups. Part A is for everyone, Part B for People with Disability and their supporters, and Part C is for receivers of feedback or complaints. For more details, visit the Safe Church website at <https://safechurch.ucavictas.org.au/policies-procedures/> and click on the relevant downloads on the right of the screen.

The meeting next heard a presentation from the Climate Action Group. Tom Spurling, Andrea Mayes and Mark Zirnsak spoke on a range of issues including fossil fuels; food, climate change and health; renewables, critical minerals, slavery and First Peoples' concerns.

Also noted was the Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill 2025. Sophie Scamps MLA sponsored this bill which would require public bodies to “act in pursuit of the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of current and future generations of Australians, and establish an independent statutory Commissioner for Future Generations”. This Bill lapsed at the dissolution of Parliament before the Federal Election in 2025.

The forthcoming 50th Anniversary of the Uniting Church was discussed.

Geoff

Church Calendar

October 2026

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1 | International Day for Older Persons |
| 2 | International Day of Non-Violence |
| 5 | World Habitat Day |
| 10 | World Homeless Day |
| 10 | World Mental Health Day |
| 11 | International Day of the Girl Child |
| 11–17 | Anti-Poverty Week |
| 13 | International Day for Disaster Reduction |
| 16 | World Food Day |
| 17 | International Day for the Eradication of Poverty |
| 19 | 2001: SIEV-X sinking and drowning of 353 asylum seekers |
| 24 | United Nations Day |
| 24–30 | Disarmament Week |

November 2026

- | | |
|----|---|
| 5 | World Tsunami Awareness Day |
| 11 | Armistice Day |
| 20 | World Children's Day |
| 25 | International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women |
| 27 | International Buy Nothing Day |
| 29 | International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People |

Source: Justice and International Mission

<https://justact.org.au>

Sign of the Times
Footy fever in Caulfield.



Recipe



Crispy Breakfast Burritos

Scrambled eggs, ham, tomato, avocado and cheese wrapped in a tortilla and pan-toasted until golden and crisp. Fully customisable — swap the protein or fillings to suit your taste.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 large eggs
- 80 grams ham, diced (or swap for bacon, chorizo, or black beans)
- 1 tomato, diced
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 60 grams cheddar cheese, shredded
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 large flour tortillas
- 1 tablespoon butter or oil, for the pan
- 0.5 teaspoon salt
- 0.3 teaspoon black pepper

STEPS

1. Whisk the eggs. Crack 4 large eggs into a bowl, season with salt and black pepper, and whisk until smooth.
2. Cook the protein. Heat a nonstick pan over medium heat. Add 80 grams ham (or alternative), diced and cook until warmed through and lightly crisped, about 2–3 minutes. Remove and set aside.
3. Scramble the eggs. In the same pan, pour in the whisked eggs and scramble gently over medium-low heat until just set, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat.
4. Warm the tortillas. Briefly warm 2 large flour tortillas in a dry pan or over a low

flame, about 15–20 seconds per side, so they're pliable and won't crack when folded.

5. Assemble. Lay each tortilla flat and spread with 2 tablespoons of mayonnaise. Layer on the scrambled eggs, cooked ham or substitute, diced, 1 tomato, diced, 1 avocado, sliced, and 60 grams cheddar cheese, shredded in the centre, leaving a border for folding.
6. Fold the burrito. Fold in the two sides, then roll tightly from the bottom up to seal the filling inside.
7. Toast for crispiness. Melt 1 tablespoon butter or oil in the pan over medium heat. Place the burrito seam-side down and toast for 2 minutes per side, pressing gently, until golden and crisp all over.
8. Serve. Slice in half on the diagonal and serve immediately while the tortilla is still crisp.

NOTES

Make it your own: swap ham for crispy bacon, spicy chorizo, or seasoned black beans for a vegetarian version. Cheese can be swapped for pepper jack or a Mexican blend. For extra kick, add a spoon of salsa or hot sauce before folding. Mayo can be swapped for sour cream or a garlic aioli. Works well as a make-ahead — wrap in foil and reheat in the pan to re-crisp before eating.

By Adilah and Aarush



Anyone who loves knowledge wants to be told when he is wrong. It is stupid to hate being corrected.

Proverbs 12:1

Mini Fete

Saturday 31 October at 9

Please keep playing your flute

Oh, I startled you. Please, keep playing your flute.

Yes, I am a bigfoot, but you can call me Clarence.

Don't worry, I'm harmless, I won't hurt you.

I was sitting under that oak tree at the edge of the meadow, listening to the forest, the sound of the wind rustling the leaves, the breeze through the tall grass, the flow of water over the rocks in the creek, the insect buzz, the bird song, and then I heard your flute. I had to come closer to hear your music better. You play beautifully well!

Yes, you are having a bigfoot encounter, and we Bigfeet, we prefer to be collectively called Bigfeet, we often approach humans who we feel we can trust. If you like, you can take my photo, or even do a selfie with me in the background, but for some reason we always come out looking like another bush. You can tell others about this meeting, but I suggest that you don't; no one will believe you, and it will tarnish your reputation.

You'll be called crazy, people will talk about you behind your back, you will lose friends, maybe lose your partner, and even get fired from your job. Your chances for career success will be slim.

You know the stereotypes of those who run around declaring they have seen BigFoot: stoned hippies, wild eyed naturalists, grunting mountain men, and that guy who ran for

governor in Oregon in 2010 whose name everyone has now forgotten. Not to mention the fraudsters who film friends out of focus walking herky jerky in ape costumes some distance from the camera. I think you are perceptive enough to know how wild your story will seem.

This is the power we have. We know that those who talk will not be believed.

We don't want the notoriety. Aren't there enough wood carvings of us as deranged monsters in tourist stops, or cartoon images of us salivating over a plate of pancakes on menus in roadside diners? It's a bad form of creature misappropriation!

We are reserved beings who revere the forest with its smells of the douglas firs and redwood trees, the feel of the chill of the morning fog, the warmth of the afternoon sun, the forest sounds, and as you now know, the artful playing of a flute by a gentle soul like you.

People like you are welcomed as fellow travellers, moving through the flow of the here and now, and feel free to commune with me as we sit here and just move from moment to moment to moment.

Now, I need to ask, do you take requests? Would you be able to play anything by Kenny G?

Don

Gwen's Friday Friends Review



What a great bunch of people. We managed a full group of sixteen. Everyone so warm and welcoming. So much to say..so . . . much to share

Warm friendly banter. Lifts the Spirits . . . lifts the soul.

And to Geoff who brings us together.

The rain held off until it was time to go.

The menu was good and varied, eggs/chips/burgers/bagels, we all did well.

The best thing the people getting to know each other.

This time it was spent at The Cedar Street Cafe.

Gwen

Lord have Mercy

Greg put this song together to support lighting of candles in a recent *Prayers of the People*.

"I'd been reading of the Canannite woman, pleading and arguing with Jesus, on behalf of the healing for her daughter (Matthew 15: 21–28). I had never thought about her anguish, and the passion and fierceness that her love for her daughter made necessary, and possible. I thought of other readings about people wrestling, arguing, trying to bargain with God, often on behalf of others

Lord have Mercy

Lord have Mercy

See these candles here
They speak of love and hurt and fear
For the ones that hold dear

For the suffering
Lord have Mercy

For the helpless
For the children
For families trying to be free from the grips
of poverty

For the grind of each long day
Help us find another way

We need justice
We need mercy
Lord have mercy

You made this world
You knew these things would happen Lord
You let them happen
Give us the crumbs of our love

Bible Word

Blessing

This also includes: *bless* and *blessed*.

Blessing

The Old Testament word generally denotes a bestowal of good. Usually considered to be material.

Dt 11:26 "Behold I set before you this day a blessing, that [if] you obey the Lord your God . . . you will . . . possess the land the Lord your God is giving you."

Pr 10.22 "The blessing of the Lord brings wealth . . ."

(Genesis 19 + 32). And God responding. There is also a line in the song that comes from something I heard during the week – that sometimes we cannot change the outcome, but we can pray for wisdom and spirit in how we engage. I also saw a stunning play during the week at the Malthouse, about the grind of parents slogging their way through poverty (Break of Day), on behalf of their loved ones ... and the need for justice to address economic and social disadvantage that creates the cage."

From your table up above

Lord have Mercy

We know some things won't go away
So change our hearts

To love and justice

Being there . . .

Help us to be there . . .

Lord have Mercy

We've all been hurt

We've all been hurt

Lord have Mercy

Bring justice

Bring grace

Bring healing

Give us mercy

Lord have mercy . . .

You brought healing

Lord Have mercy

The New Testament word denotes the spiritual good brought by the gospel.

Rom 15:29 "I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ."

Eph 1:3 "Praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realm with spiritual blessing in Christ."

Bless

Gen 12:3 "God said to Abram I will bless you and I will bless those who bless you . . . and all people on earth will be blessed through you."

Numb 6:24-27 "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

"So they will put my name on the Israelites,

and I will bless them.”

Ps 67:1 “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us.”

Lk 6:28: “But I tell you . . . Love your enemies, bless those who curse you . . .”

Rom 12:14 “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”

Blessed

When this word is applied to God it has the sense of praise and when of man, denotes a state of happiness. In the New Testament, it is given a strong spiritual content, as revealed in the Beatitudes. It also seems to contain a congratulatory element, as a note in *Weymouth's New Testament* suggests: “People who are blessed may outwardly be much to be pitied, but from the higher and truer standpoint they are to be envied, congratulated and imitated.”

Ps1:1 “Blessed is the man [whose] . . . delight is in the law of the Lord.”

Is 30:18 “[T]he Lord longs to be gracious to you For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all those who wait for him.”

Matt 5:3–11 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” etc.

Luke 1:42 “Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear!”

Acts 20:35 “[Remember] the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Titus 2:13 “[W]e wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearance of our great God and Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Jas 1:12 “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

Rev 22:7 “Behold I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”

References

All Bible quotes from *The New International Version of the Bible*.

The New BIBLE Dictionary, The Inter-Varsity Fellowship 1965

The Bible Reader's Encyclopedia and Concordance 1962

Andrea

Life's Simple Blessings



Sometimes a weekend becomes much more than a few days away. It becomes a reminder of what truly matters: friendship, faith, meaningful conversation, and the simple joy of sharing life's journey with people we love.

The last weekend in August was an opportunity for Rod and I to drive to Adelaide to celebrate my birthday with some of our dearest friends.

Our weekend began on Friday with the long drive from Melbourne. The weather could not have been more perfect. Clear blue skies for the entire journey, and the countryside seemed determined to put on a show. Following the recent rains, the landscape was green and fresh, with the wattle trees bursting into golden bloom along much of the journey.

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In many places, the flowering canola fields extended as far the eye could see. The beauty of late winter and early spring accompanied us for the entire journey.

One of the gifts of the weekend was the time spent in the car with Rod. Two full days of travelling provided space that everyday life rarely allows. Without distractions or deadlines, we found ourselves engaged in deep conversations about life, faith, hopes, challenges, and plans for the rest of the year. It was a reminder that some of the most meaningful moments happen not at the destination, but along the road.

Friday evening marked a special celebration as we gathered with friends for dinner at a

relaxed Italian restaurant to celebrate my birthday. There was laughter, good food, and the warmth that comes from being surrounded by people who have known one another for many years.

Among the most significant moments of the weekend was a visit with a dear friend currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer. While such circumstances are undoubtedly difficult for the family, our time together was filled with honesty, joy, laughter, courage and hope. We shared meaningful conversations about life and faith, reflecting on both the challenges and blessings that accompany difficult seasons. It was deeply moving to witness resilience in the face of adversity and to be reminded of the strength that friendship and faith can provide.

It was a wonderful weekend of connection with long-standing friends. These relationships, built over almost four decades, are among life's greatest treasures. We were able to celebrate the growth and life milestones of the 3, now-adult, children of the family we stayed with: a recent 21st birthday of their youngest son, the engagement of their second son, and we met the partner of their oldest son for the first time. There is a unique comfort in friendships that have endured through changing circumstances, celebrating joys together and supporting one another through hardships. Time spent with such friends feels effortless and deeply nourishing.

Adding to the weekend's joy was the opportunity to spend time with our daughter and her partner, who also happened to be in Adelaide for the weekend. On Sunday, together with them and our friends, we enjoyed a leisurely day exploring the wineries of Langhorne Creek. Sitting outside, surrounded by beautiful vineyards, good company, good food and wine, and shared laughter, it was a perfect way to spend a spring day. Particularly rewarding is seeing friendships that have been part of our lives for many years extending naturally to the next generation.

As we made our way home to Melbourne, once again travelling under blue skies and through landscapes filled with blooming wattles and fields of flowering canola, a sense of gratitude accompanied us. The weekend had been rich in simple but profound blessings: beautiful weather, stunning scenery, heartfelt conversations, cherished friendships, a birthday celebration, and the privilege of sharing life's deeper questions with people who matter.

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It was a weekend that reminded us that while destinations are memorable, it is the people who travel alongside us, and the relationships we nurture along the way, that make the journey truly meaningful.

Cathryn with some help from AI



Welcome Michael



I grew up in Ashburton a rough suburb in the sixties and seventies.

I went to St Michael's primary on High Street there. I went to St John's in Hawthorn for my secondary education.

I did not go to uni or get a trade I just went from job to job. I have had varied employment and seemed to manage along the way. I have 3 sisters and 2 brothers. Mum died in 2012 at the age of 85 while Dad died in 1978 at the age of 56. Unfortunately, he had muscular dystrophy, and was not expected to live very long.

I am 66 next June, never married and no children. It's a good group at the church and I enjoy the functions and mass.

Kind regards

Michael



At the Peace Concert

2027: the year of anniversaries



Left to right: Caulfield Shire Hall; St John's first and second churches, 1916; St John's 2026.

We all at some time hold celebrations to mark milestones, be they birthdays of family members and friends, or events that involve groups large and small to entire nations.

Churches commemorate milestones. One has been, and in some cases still are, Sunday School anniversaries. In my first church at Hawthorn Road Methodist in South Caulfield, these anniversaries were big affairs – a wooden tiered stage for children and teachers, visiting, entertaining preachers, a small orchestra, much singing, many activities, and the congregation swelled by doting parents.

Lynette mentioned, in a recent service, another celebration, that of the Harvest Festival, when tables were laden with fruits and vegetables, highlighting our thankfulness for the work of farmers and gardeners. Our equivalent today may be Uniting food collections. but these do not specifically involve Australian produce.

A third celebration in churches has been the Church Anniversary which marked the number of years since a congregation's formation. Again, these services involved many services, a choir augmented by visiting singers and soloists, and much music.

Dwelling on this last celebration, it is 139 years since twelve Presbyterians met on 30 September 1887 in the Caulfield Shire Hall to “consider the question of providing Presbyterian services [for Caulfield and Balaclava].” The meeting requested the Presbyterian Church to provide Presbyterian service. The first Presbyterian Church Service was held with permission in the Court House on 31 October, one month later.

From that event and with increasing interest, they decided to acquire the present site, establish a Presbyterian congregation, which led to the building of a timber church – now our church hall. The brick church followed later.

We will hear more about these events on 18 October when Patricia takes the service. However, a more important point is that 2027

marks the 140th anniversary of the first meeting of those Presbyterians. This milestone deserves a worthy celebration. Let's start as a congregation to start planning now.

The title of this article refers to anniversaries, plural. Next year also marks the 50th anniversary since the Uniting Church grew out of the coming together of Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian folk. This half-century also needs to be recognised, but the question is how and by whom.

Harking back to the Uniting Church's inauguration on 22 June 1977, celebrations took many forms and scales, from the national to the regional to the congregation. In Sydney, the inaugural service was televised nationally from the Sydney Town Hall. More locally, for example, six local Uniting churches in Brighton were invited by St Andrew's Anglican Church to come together with around 1000 attending. Candles representing the merging denominations lit one big candle. In Glen Waverley, the neighbouring Methodists and Presbyterians joined and marched together. In country Victoria, Stawell Town Hall saw the gathering of 300 Methodist and Presbyterians from seven churches.

Times have changed but a meaningful celebration is appropriate. Perhaps, the coming together of local Uniting congregations, smaller in number now, would be fitting reminder of the coming together in 1977, and remind us that interactions with surrounding churches, once more common at least in the Methodist church, are beneficial. Celebrations will also be Presbytery and Synod wide.

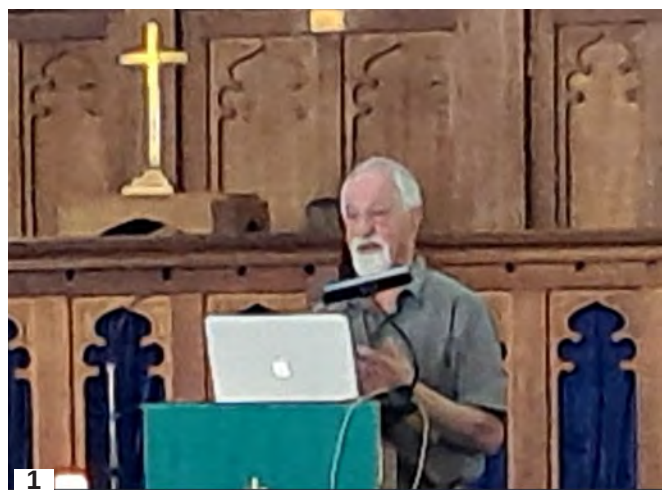
Anniversaries are a look back at events and the people who formed them. They are historical in nature. Anniversaries should help us focus on the present, and the future, the what, how and who.

So my message is for our congregation to start planning for our 140th anniversary in 2027 as well as for the Uniting Church's half century.

Geoff

Recently Seen

1 Rod recently led morning worship. 2a and 2b Lilly and Colin celebrated their birthdays. 3 There was much chat at Chatty Café. 4 Cedar Street Cafe was the venue for August Friday Friends Lunch. 5 Cathryn and friends constructed miniature brologas for the Peace Tree. 6 Work commenced on the former tennis courts. 7 There was plenty of music at the 20 September Peace Concert.



1



3



4



5



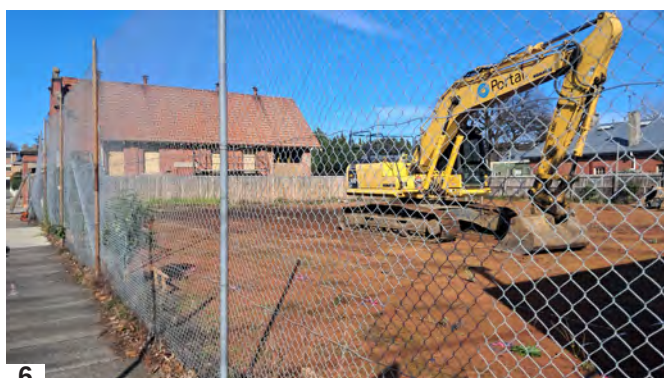
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2a



2b



6

St John's Uniting Church, Elsternwick

Roster & diary dates for October and November 2026

October	4 Pentecost 19	11 Pentecost 20	18 Pentecost 21	25 Pentecost 22	Daylight Saving starts at 2am on Sunday 4 October	October Dates
Leader	Rev Dr L Dungan*	Cathy McNicol	Patricia McKay	Cathy McNicol		Birthdays 13 Tim 19 Ken
Lectionary Readings	Ex 20:1-4, 7-9 12-20; Is 5:1-7; Ps 19; Ps 80:7-15; Phil 3:4b-14; Mt 21:33-45	Ex 32:1-14; Ps 106:1-6, 19-23; Phil 4:1-9; Mt 22:1-14	Ex 33:12-23; Ps 99; 1 Thes 1:1-10; Mt 22:15-22	Dt 34:1-12; Ps 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thes 2:1-8; Mt 22:34-46		Events Weekly Craft & Chat Monday @1-3 Chatty Café Wednesday @10-12 Peace Vigil Wednesday @4-5 Chair Yoga Friday @9.45 11 Sunday at St John's @5.30 30 Friday Friends Lunch @12,15 31 Mini Fete @9 * Holy Communion
Prayer	Lynette	Greg	Audrey	Patricia		
Greeter	Geoffrey	Colin	Raj	Raj		
Reader	Patricia	Don	Alex	Audrey		
Screen Operator	Greg	Geoffrey	Geoffrey	Geoffrey		
Steward/Offering	Andrea/Geoffrey	Andrea/Colin	Patricia/Raj	Andrea/Raj		
Morning Tea	Alex/Lilly	Andrea/Rhonda	Luchee/Denise	Patricia/Colin		
Flowers	Patricia	Rhonda	Alex	Wendy		

November	1 Pentecost 23	8 Pentecost 24	15 Pentecost 25	22 Christ the King Day	29 Advent 1	November Dates
Leader	Rev Dr L Dungan*	Rev Dr L Dungan	Rod Dungan	Rev Dr L Dungan	Dr Greg Smith	Birthdays 10 Judy
Lectionary Readings	Jos 3:7-17; Ps 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thes 2:9-13; Mt 23:1-12	Jos 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps 78:1-7; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13	Jgs 4:1-7; Ps 123; 1 Thes 5:1-11; Mt 25:14-30	Ez 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps 100; Eph 1:15-23; Mt 25:31-46	Is 64:1-9; Ps 80: 1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:24-37	Events Weekly Craft & Chat Monday @1-3 Chatty Café Wednesday @10-12 Peace Vigil Wednesday @4-5 Chair Yoga Friday @9.45 8 Sunday Night at St John's @5.30 27 Friday Friends Lunch @12,15 * Holy Communion
Prayer	Patricia	Cathy	Greg	Lynette	Audrey	
Greeter	Colin	Raj	Alex	Raj	Colin	
Reader	Don	Patricia	Cathy	Audrey	Alex	
Screen Operator	Cathy	Greg	Geoffrey	Greg	Geoffrey	
Steward/Offering	Andrea/Colin	Andrea/Raj	Raj/Patricia	Andrea/Raj	Andrea/Colin	
Morning Tea	Rhonda/Alex	Audrey/Jean	Wendy/Colin	Luchee/Patricia	Denise/Lilly	
Flowers	Rhonda	Audrey	Alex	Wendy	Patricia	