



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 69 SEPTEMBER 2021

PUTTING DISCIPLESHIP IN PLACE

KAREN ELLER 22ND AUGUST

The most thought-provoking book I have read this year is *A Christian Theology of Place*. The author, John Inge, anchors his attention to place in the observation that in scripture God reveals Godself at a particular place. Abraham hosts the three angels at Mamre; Jacob wrestles the stranger/God at the Ford of Jabbok; Moses meets I Am at the burning bush on Mount Sinai. In the Gospels we read of Jesus revealing the saving power of God in towns and villages, beside lakes, on mountains, on the water, in houses, in the street, on the cross, in the garden and in the breaking of bread. Our own experiences of God also happen in particular places.



And yet, as Inge contends, our post-Enlightenment society in the main has distanced itself from place and instead prioritises time and space. Indigenous communities are attuned to place, their identity and spirituality closely entwined with landscape, but white western spirituality is far more cerebral and largely disconnected from place. Perhaps this is how we find ourselves in the dire circumstances outlined in the recent IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Report. www.ipcc.ch (continued on page 3)

LOCKDOWN CARE

Please keep in touch with one another, as you do so well, and provide the care and support that is needed. Prayer is a vital and valuable way to care for yourself, each other, and the world.

We are looking forward to the time when we can all gather together safely and joyfully. In the meantime, we are still God's church in our communities, listening for the Spirit's leading, living Jesus' way of love and service, and offering God's hope to the world.

Please Note: Keep an eye on current COVID-safety restrictions and potential changing of events or dates. If you have any concerns or need any support or assistance, please call one of the ministry team – Karen or Annette – details on last page.

LECTIONARY Readings Year B

After Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day/Season	Color	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
29 Aug	Pent 14 (22)	G	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	45:1-2, 6-9	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
5 Sept	Pent 15 (23)	G	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	125	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
12 Sept	Pent 16 (24)	G	Proverbs 1:20-33	19	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
19 Sept	Pent 17 (25)	G	Proverbs 31:10-31	1	James 3:13 to 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9 30-37
26 Sept	Pent 18 (26)	G	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	124	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50
3 Oct	Pent 19 (27)	G	Job 1:1; 2:1-10	26	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16

Colours: P – Purple W – White G – Green R – Red B – Black

A message from the ministry team in relation to the Lectionary readings this month:

For worship leaders, and others who are interested in planning worship: We are strongly encouraging congregations to observe the Season of Creation across the Partnership from 1st September to 4th October. The Season of Creation has been celebrated across denominations for a number of years in the weeks leading up to the day observed as the feast day of St Francis of Assisi (1st Sunday in October). The resources haven't always followed the Revised Common Lectionary that most of us use, but this year they definitely do. Following the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is more important than ever for the Church to join together to celebrate and care for God's created world. The Season of Creation resources help us to do this. These websites have more information about the Season of Creation:



https://www.commongrace.org.au/season_of_creation_2021

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

I have signed up to receive the resources from Common Grace, but there are resources available in other places if you search for Season of Creation 2021. If you would like a copy of the resources I receive, please let me know and I will pass them on.

We'd also love to hear your ideas for activities for the Season, including where there are groups in your communities who we might partner with. Obviously COVID restrictions are making it difficult to organise events, but we trust your creativity to come up with some ideas!

(From page 1)

How do we stop from succumbing to helplessness and despair with a code-red climate emergency and the Taliban asserting abusive power over women in Afghanistan? How do we not get drawn into the lethargy and loss of motivation thrust upon us by yet another lockdown?

What helps me is remembering whose I am, beloved of the Author of life. Knowing that our God is faithful to us gives me the encouragement to keep on keeping on, in my own locale. The gift that we have been entrusted, the Good News of Christ Jesus, is the pearl worth more than we can put a price on. God has entrusted us to say and do what we can to be responsible stewards of the creation which is our home. We can be creative about how we do this, and perhaps some enforced home-time will help us reflect on how we as individuals and we as the community of Christ can honour our call as disciples.

Through September our worship will focus on the Seasons of Creation, and hopefully invite us all into deeper relationship with our Creator as well as with the places in which we live and with one another. May Christ welcome us into spring, the next season of our lives, with compassion and generosity. Amen.

WHY ICONS?

The word **icon** is used quite commonly these days. It can be applied to a pop singer or a footballer. But, for millions of Eastern Christians, icons are a central part of their spiritual practice. Large or small, they are richly coloured works of art which depict scenes from the Bible and church history.

For centuries the division between Western Christianity and Eastern was so deep that forms of worship (liturgy), of music and of art were not often shared. This has now changed, and we are learning about each other's traditions.

In Melbourne, Uniting Church minister Rev Dr Rob Gallacher has been studying icons for decades. He has painted (or "written") many icons himself and conducted many workshops (called "icon schools"). Now that he is doing less of this work, Rev Dr Peter Blackwood runs most of the icon schools. Peter, also from Melbourne, and also a Uniting Church minister, has agreed to deliver the **Peter Barcham Lecture** at Gisborne UC on Sunday 10th October at 2.30 pm - Covid permitting. Peter will bring icons and pictures of icons with him. It will be an opportunity for us to learn about a spiritual tradition which has been mostly closed to us.

I'll be writing more about the lecture as October draws near. Meantime, phone me if you would like more information.

D'Arcy Wood
5428-6700

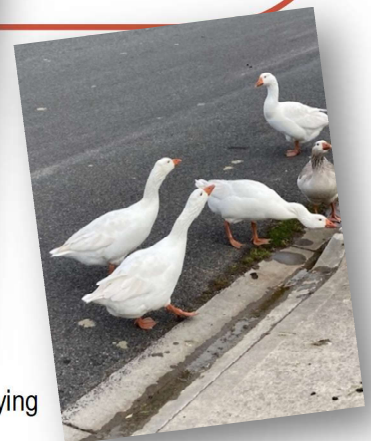


Work continues on the church building at Riddells Creek with the new window installed but not quite finished off yet. Extra railings have been added to the new entrance with the ramp at the front of the church.

Some other work has been done inside and the new road with curbing has been completed.



Even the geese are enjoying the new road!!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September</h1> <p>Events may move online in case of ongoing lockdown</p>			1	2	3	4
					10am Prayers at Gisborne	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9am Tylden	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community				10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9.30am Gisborne 10am Metcalfe	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community			6.30pm Delightful Diners Malmsbury Hotel	10am Prayers at Gisborne	PIP items due tomorrow!
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9am Romsey 9.30am Kyneton	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community		10am Ministers Munch Redesdale		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton	
26	27	28	29	30	<h1>2021</h1>	
9am Romsey	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community 3.30pm RM Begg	10am Gisborne Contemporary Worship				

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Woodend Faith Community is meeting weekly at 2.30pm at the Woodend Church (weather permitting – under the trees) Through August we have met at the Vic Hotel in Woodend for warmth and hospitality along with worship and sharing, followed by online via Zoom in lockdown. Contact one of the ministry team to confirm current meeting details if you wish to join. All are welcome.

Prayer Meetings Every week in the Gisborne Uniting Church on Fridays at 10am

Kyneton Fish & Chips Fortnightly worship service – BYO meal (it doesn't have to be fish and chips!) not for sharing due to ongoing COVID restrictions, held on the Friday after the 1st and 3rd Sunday in the month – this month on 10th & 24th September at 6.30pm, also meeting via Zoom during lockdown – keep an eye on emails from the ministry team for further details in case of ongoing lockdown.

Redesdale Ministers Munch (and worship) at the Redesdale General Store 10am Wednesday 22nd September – all welcome

Other Worship times September Sunday service times for churches across the partnership currently are:

- Tylden is at 9am
- Gisborne is at 9:30am
- Romsey is at 9am
- Kyneton is at 9.30am on 1st & 3rd Sundays
- Northern Churches at 10am: Metcalf on 12th, Barfold on 26th
- See the Calendar on page 4 for Minister led worship on Sundays including Holy Communion across the partnership; other services will be lay-led as arranged by each church.

If there are events or meetings not listed here that you know should be included for October, please contact Robyn by 19th September via zumstein@mmnet.com.au or 0401 917 741 to get your events, services and meetings into the next edition of PiP. Do keep an eye on the emails that come from the ministry team for further news and updates.

Gisborne Secondary College Chaplaincy Committee
and House of The Rock invite you to

Morning Tea

With Guest Speaker - *Pastor Christie Buckingham*

As Spiritual Adviser for Myuran Sukumaran (member of the Bali 9), Pastor Christie walked with Myuran to his death by firing squad in 2015 and was with him in his final moments.

"I was so taken by how inspirational they were and how they had reformed themselves inside Kerobokan Prison, that I decided to start a Chaplaincy which is an organization that supports interfaith dialogue in Kerobokan."

Saturday 9th October 2021
10am
\$25 per Ticket

House of The Rock

247 Station Road, New Gisborne

Tickets can be purchased
at Snapshot Photos
Shop 2 / 18 Brantome st
beside Priceline.

Cash only please

if you are unable to visit
Snapshot photos
please contact

Bronwyn 0417 028 605



Zoom Church and reflection: After a recent church service held on Zoom, five of us had a further discussion, “how bad things were in our minds and lives during the lockdown”. Coincidentally, there have been three articles in the “Age” that same weekend following the theme of what we were talking about. That is – if you do something nice and thoughtful for someone else, you feel good and make other people happy too. And also, very often without looking for it - it comes back to you again ‘in spades’. My mum, Lilian, used to speak about having “an educated heart.”

On that same Sunday, in the Faith Column, Ray Cleary was mentioning the same thing. And he cited a number of faith groups, as well as Christians, who have been central to our resilience during a long lockdown and who have gone about feeding, caring, supporting and responding to many different needs without seeking fanfare or publicity. These activities reflect an understanding of what it means to be human and a living community. Jesus would speak about compassion, healing, love and sacrifice (Mark’s Gospel). The true essence of Christian faith is not a set of beliefs, but living the teachings of Jesus that enables all humanity to live enriching, faithful and fulfilling lives.

Next, there is a story written by a lady called Maida Pineda who has come to live in Australia for the first time. She moved into an apartment at South Bank. And I quote here. “I found a little community right on my floor. I was quickly added to the community. And neighbours remained connected every day. If someone was going to the grocery, pharmacy or post office, they would ask if anyone needed anything. I had a new couch delivered. My three neighbours delivered it to my door. More than sharing physical things we share each other’s lives.”

On the same weekend at the end of July, there was a tragic but heart-warming story of a Jewish man called Phillip Maisell. Incarcerated by the Germans in a concentration camp, he suffered and survived unbelievable hardship and atrocious cruelty. But he now lives in Melbourne and he remembers every act of kindness. “It wasn’t luck that saved me,” he says, “it was the acts of humanity. It helped me when I had a clear conscience. I tried to be a decent man,” he said. “I don’t know if it’s logical, but I felt if you did a good deed you’d be rewarded. The moral attitude was as important as food, maybe more”. In the course of his interview, Maisel said the word “decent” 18 times. It’s the quality he values most in a person. “I was always proud of myself,” he said. “I was a decent human in the worst possible conditions.” After he was released, they came to Melbourne and he is reunited with his twin sister at the age of 99. She also miraculously survived the Camps.

We don’t really have much to complain about all the Lockdowns, do we?

Wendy Hebbard

A prayer relating to the readings from Ephesians 6:10-20

Dear God, today we put on the full armor to guard our lives against attack. We put on the belt of truth to protect against lies and deception. We put on the breastplate of righteousness to protect our hearts from the temptations we battle.

We put the gospel of peace on our feet, so we’re ready to take your light wherever you send us this day. We choose to walk in the peace and freedom of your Spirit and not be overcome with fear and anxious thoughts. We take up your shield of faith that will extinguish all the darts and threats hurled our way by the enemy.

We believe in your power to protect us and choose to trust in you. We put on the helmet of salvation, which covers our minds and thoughts, reminding us we are children of God, forgiven, set free, saved by the grace of Jesus Christ.

We take up the sword of the Spirit, your very Word, the one offensive weapon given to us for battle, which has the power to demolish strongholds, alive, active, and sharper than any double-edged sword.

We ask for your help in remembering to put on your full armor every day, for you give us all that we need to stand firm in this world. Forgive us God, for the times we’ve been unprepared, too busy to care, or trying to fight and wrestle in our own strength.

Thank you that we never fight alone, for you are constantly at work on our behalf, shielding, protecting, strengthening, exposing deeds of darkness, bringing to light what needs to be known, covering us from the cruel attacks we face even when we’re unaware.

In the powerful name of Jesus,

Amen

I SAID A PRAYER FOR YOU TODAY

I said a prayer for you to-day
And know God must have heard
I felt the answer in my heart
Although he spoke no word
I didn't ask for wealth or fame
I knew you wouldn't mind
I asked him to send treasures
Of a far more lasting kind
I asked that He would be near you
At the start of each new day
To grant you health and blessings
And friends to share the way
I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small
But it was for His loving care
I prayed the most of all

Prayers from Jeni, Romsey

Letter writing to 'The Age'

After reading a letter in 'The Age' sent in by Lorraine Broad of Gisborne (Rural Refugee committee), Wendy wrote to 'The Age' about Afghanistan. Though it was not printed there, we reproduce it here (she also wrote to Alex Hawke and the PM).

"Compassion"

Dear Sir,

There are many topics of concern on my mind at the moment. Foremost is the government's attitude towards refugees.

Our intake of people from Afghanistan needs to increase quickly. For a plane to take off with only 26 people on board was pitiful.

Surely Australia is better than this and we should be able to receive many more from that tragic country and quickly, before their situation gets worse. We went to war in that country, for what gain? That remains to be seen. Finally, that Sri Lankan family, including two children born here, should be allowed to return to Biloela where they would be welcomed.

I am a Christian and I believe Scott is too. He should show us by his actions how compassionate he really is.

Sincerely

Wendy Hebbard

86/1849 Mount Macedon Road.

Woodend VIC ph: 0438332767

Contacts Other Groups		
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> <u>MIA MIA</u> <u>BARFOLD</u> <u>METCALFE</u>	<u>Congregation Chair</u> - Dot Smith <u>Elders - North</u> Dot Smith Marge Townrow	<u>Elders- Kyneton</u> Pip Elston, Jenny Elston, Helen Aldridge Andrea Strack, Brian Lauder
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Church Council</u> Roy Gibbs, Helen Carey, Susan Campbell	<u>Congregation Secretary</u> Jenny Elston <u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs
<u>ROMSEY</u>	<u>Church Council/Elders</u> Noel Shaw David Strack Jeni Clampit Jenny Elliott Jay Brooks John Laing Carol Toy	<u>UCAF</u> Pres/Sec - Jeni Clampit Treasurer - Carol Toy
<u>TYLDEN</u>	<u>Elders</u> Shirley Bowen, Joy Evans Max Hinneberg	<u>Worship Team Co-Ord</u> Janet Cole
<u>WOODEND</u>	<u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> – Robyn Zumstein	
<u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u>		<u>Craft Group</u> - Lynette Bucknall
<u>GISBORNE</u>	<u>Prayer Ministry/F & C</u> - Glennis Speed <u>Pastoral Care/F & C</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> Nola Anderson <u>Worship & Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>UCAF</u> - Maree Clarke <u>Craft Group</u> - Linda Moorhouse <u>Friends Pizza Night</u> - Ron Hebbard
<u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Secretary</u> - <u>Minute Secretary</u> – Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Finance Committee</u> Chair - Paul Gilbertson, Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman & Bronwyn Hewitt

The **Delightful Diners** met and ate together on Thursday 19th August at Vespas in Woodend. Starting at 6pm, the invitation was extended as an initiative of the Tylden/ Woodend Uniting Church Op Shop & Tylden Uniting Church congregation. **Our next meal** will be shared at 6.30pm on 16th September at the **Malmsbury Hotel**. If you would like to join us please RSVP so we can forward numbers to the facility. We would love to have you join us for dinner.

Bronwyn Hewitt

The Delightful Diners sharing food and fellowship at Vespas in Woodend last month.



Please note change of email for Jay Brooks –
her new email address is
jaymbrooks12@gmail.com

Presbytery of Port Phillip West has a website full of
resources and information: <https://ucappw.org.au/>

Address label

Partnership in Print is a monthly magazine produced by the Uniting Church in Australia – Macedon Ranges Partnership and is available on the last Sunday of each month, except December

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PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au

CONGREGATION DETAILS	CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROPERTY	COCo REPS
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> - Church Access Rd <u>MIA MIA</u> - Matheson Rd <u>BARFOLD</u> - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd <u>METCALFE</u> - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd	Pip Elston	Helen Aldridge miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<u>Finance Committee</u> Helen Carey (Treas) Roy Gibbs Jenny Elston	Church Council Executive	Marge Townrow Dot Smith
<u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebden St (PO Box 892)					Pip Elston, Susan Campbell, Lyn Ward (alt)
<u>ROMSEY</u> - 25 Pohlman St (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit	Roger Baker		Noel Shaw, Jeni Clampit, Jay Brooks (alt)
<u>TYLDEN</u> - Trentham Rd (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden, 3444)	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole	Dawn Hinneberg	Max Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Janet Cole Dawn Hinneberg
<u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St (PO Box 34, Woodend, 3442)					George Roberts
<u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

Next Partnership in Print Please share something of yours or your congregations' life or faith journey, a thought, prayer, favourite scripture or reflections thereon. You can send an email to zumstein@mmnet.com.au or hand something to one of the ministers for the next edition. Please send all corrections/events/stories/photos/tidbits to me **by Sunday 19th September**. I am happy to receive emails or texts via phone or you can pop something in the post or my letterbox. Robyn (contact details at bottom of Contact list under Z 😊)

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