



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 75 APRIL 2022

JOHN 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never put it out.

How hard it is to read the News these days. Even with the light relief of the occasional cute Koala story, it's heavy going, and many of the images and stories of suffering leave us with heavy hearts.

We can feel quite powerless in the light of it all. How are you and I going to stop the war in Ukraine, deal with the floodwater, rebuild in Tonga, care for the world's refugees?

And yet we see so many stories too of what one person or small groups have done that do make a difference and remind us of God's promise – there will be darkness but light will always shine.



Olga Sipatova
14 h · 🌐

My dear friends from Ukraine: Bulgaria is accepting refugees. Personally I offer free transport from Romanian/Moldovian border to Bulgaria. I can also help with accommodation here. Please contact me if you know someone who might need this. ... See more



... An early photo I saw after the outbreak of war in Ukraine, was a message from a young Bulgarian girl, Olga, who decided to use what she had – her car and some savings – to meet refugees on the Romanian border and drive them to safety in Bulgaria, even helping with accommodation.

There were stories not just of one but many cars lined up along the Ukrainian border, waiting to pick up refugees, women, children and the elderly, running for their lives.

Then an image of prams left at railway stations for Polish mothers fleeing with children.



Soon many stories began to and continue to appear. Not only in Ukraine and surrounds, but in Russia. Thousands of Russians protesting the war, standing strong whilst arrests, imprisonments and punishments went on.



Then slowly across the world, numerous monuments including the Sydney Opera House, starting appearing awash in the Ukrainian colours.

Then many other signs of support, as diverse as the world's communities:

The London Salvation Army playing the Ukraine National Anthem outside the Ukrainian Cathedral.

A real privilege for Regent Hall Band to march to the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral this morning to sh... See more



A Scottish tartan manufacturer created the Ukraine Forever tartan as a fund raiser for the Ukrainian Humanitarian appeal. 'We will weave, we will cut, and we will sew for a better tomorrow.'

So is there anything we can do to be part of the shining light in the world's darkness? Yes!

(Continued on page 3)

LECTIONARY Readings Year C

Lent

A season of preparation and discipline that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship. This season is the traditional time to prepare for baptisms and confirmations to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday, or during the season of Easter.

| Date | Day/Season | Colour | 1st Reading | Psalm | 2nd Reading | Gospel |
|--------|------------------------|--------|--|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 27 Mar | Lent 4 | P | Joshua 5:9-12 | 32 | 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 | Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 |
| 3 Apr | Lent 5 | P | Isaiah 43:16-21 | 126 | Philippians 3:4b-14 | John 12:1-8 |
| 10 Apr | Palm Sunday | P | Isaiah 50:4-9a | 118:1-2, 19-29 | Philippians 2:5-11 | Luke 19:28-40 |
| 10 Apr | Passion Sunday | P | Isaiah 50:4-9a | 31:9-16 | Philippians 2:5-11 | Luke 22:14 to 23:56 or Luke 23:1-49 |
| 11 Apr | Monday in Holy Week | P | Isaiah 42:1-9 | 36: 5-11 | Hebrews 9: 11-15 | John 12:1-11 |
| 12 Apr | Tuesday in Holy Week | P | Isaiah 49:1-7 | 71:1-14 | 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 | John 12:20-36 |
| 13 Apr | Wednesday in Holy Week | P | Isaiah 50:5-9a | 70 | Hebrews 12:1-3 | John 13:21-32 |
| 14 Apr | Holy Thursday | P | Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 | 116:1-2, 12-19 | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 | John 13:1-17, 31b-35 |
| 15 Apr | Good Friday | B/R | Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12 | 22 | Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 | John 18:1 to 19:42 |
| 16 Apr | Holy Saturday | B | Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24 | 31:1-4, 15-16 | 1 Peter 4:1-8 | Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19 38-42 |

Easter

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter vigil and concluding on the day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

| | | | | | | |
|--------|------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 17 Apr | Easter Day | W | Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 | 118:1-2, 14-24 | 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 | John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12 |
| 24 Apr | Easter 2 | W | Acts 5:27-32 | 118:14-29 or 150 | Revelation 1:4-8 | John 20:19-31 |
| 1 May | Easter 3 | W | Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) | 30 | Revelation 5:11-14 | John 21:1-19 |

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

The Tylden / Woodend Op Shop is holding a working bee on **Wednesday 30th March** 9.30am till 1.30pm or whatever time you can come and help. We will clear all summer items from the op shop into care bags and restock the shop with winter stock.

(From page 1) ... is there anything we can do to be part of the shining light in the world's darkness? Yes!

800,000 children each day die because of poor sanitation. We all use toilet paper. How easy it is to buy toilet paper from "Who gives a crap" (apologies for the name)? It arrives at your front door free of charge, you don't even have to cart it home from the supermarket. So, hardly putting ourselves out, we are supporting a company where half the profits go to building toilets in the developing world, and \$8 million has been raised so far.



Do you enjoy a glass of wine? David Laity lost everything in the Black Saturday bushfires. He started again by building a winery. He said "I wanted to pay forward the incredible generosity shown to me." So, 50% of profits go to human need. So far \$400,000 has provided meals for Australians living in poverty. Equipment has been bought for volunteer fire brigades, and many others.

How easy to order our wine here, particularly as it is on our own doorstep in New Gisborne.

One member of the Partnership simply had an idea – can we connect with flood affected churches and offer our love, prayers and care? The idea was passed on to the UC Assembly and will become a national project.

And we can pray. 'More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.' (Tennyson).

"There is a light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never put it out."

Yes, there will always be good amongst the bad, hope in hopeless situations, love in the hate, but all because the light, the presence of Jesus Christ will never leave us.

"All shall be well and all shall be well, for there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go. (Julian of Norwich.)

Rose Broadstock

LENTEN OPTIONS ONGOING IN APRIL

The 40-day season of Lent is an opportunity to disrupt our everyday routines by living more simply, taking up a spiritual discipline or being more intentional about our lives and habits. 'Fasting' is a common discipline for Lent, going without something for 40 days. But more powerful than fasting from chocolate or Netflix etc, is choosing to fast from *indifference* to others and to the challenges facing our world: poverty, conflict, inequality, violence, a changing climate...

Lent Event is 40 days of living more simply, learning from our global neighbours and choosing to make a difference in our own lives and the lives of others. Take up a Lent Event challenge and be part of a movement to end poverty and injustice in our world.

If you'd like to form a team to fundraise together across the Partnership or in your congregation, please contact Annette or Rose.

For more information, or to sign up:

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/about-us>

lentevent)

LIVE SIMPLY
so others can
SIMPLY LIVE
-Mahatma Gandhi

(also more Lent information in last month's PiP available on our website if you can't find your copy)

NEWS FROM COCO

The Macedon Ranges Partnership held a weekend “retreat” in early February 2022 to determine which “concrete steps” should be taken to help the partnership pursue its vision for change and development. That vision is based on the belief that more can be achieved by the participating congregations working in partnership than by working alone with limited resources. The vision relies on a shared commitment to explore new models of church, the building of strong relationships with community, new models of worship and mission, and a range of worship times.

For this year, the Coordinating Council (CoCo) of the partnership has identified four “concrete steps” to be taken:



1. Enhancing community links: conversations with Neighbourhood Houses or other relevant community groups in each congregation area are already underway. Keen interest from the Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House has been expressed. These conversations are both for use of available buildings and for exploring where we can make connections with other people. This may be for short term projects rather than an ongoing long-term commitment in the first instances. Other links will be explored.
2. Improving the partnership’s sustainability: attention will be given to how best to use the partnership’s buildings and activities and how these can be used for missional purposes. The resources include the vital roles of the Op Shops and social enterprise opportunities that could be associated with them. There will be a request for financial status reports from each congregation, including the Op Shops, so that it can be better understood how ongoing funding for ministry can be achieved. On present indications, current funds will only support one ministry placement across the partnership from 2023. Other areas of potential funding are also being explored such as bequests. The maintenance and upgrade projects at Woodend and Riddells Creek will soon provide churches, a church hall and associated grounds for new and existing missional purposes.
3. Upgrading communications: steps have already been taken to enhance audiovisual equipment and internet connections. A “proof on concept” trial involving the Woodend and Tylden churches is underway. The other churches will be included progressively over the next few months. Opportunities will be sought to expand the Facebook group of Church members, to commence a Book Club involving all congregations, and to use the upgraded technology for the forthcoming Lenten Studies.
4. Managing expectations and opportunities for worship and mission: the Tylden and Romsey congregations are considering changes to their current worship times, to 9.30am each Sunday, beginning 1 May 2022. This will enable the future use of enhanced communications to share worship together across the Partnership in ‘real’ time from 9.30 am. That sharing of worship will not occur on 1 May 2022 but will occur progressively as the other churches receive and begin using the new audiovisual facilities. There will be a back-up worship plan developed just in case the audiovisual links encounter problems. There will be a continuing commitment to exploring new models of church, new models of worship and mission, and a range of worship times.



From Worship in Kyneton in March, our prayer candles for those in times of turmoil - war in the Ukraine and Russia, and floods in eastern Australia.

The yellow and blue of the Ukraine flag, the white, blue and red of Russia’s flag in the candles, the flowing water, also becoming mud, destruction from floods and from war.

I GRUMBLED

I grumbled about the potholes in the road...
but what's that to a bomb crater in the school-ground?

I grumbled about the showers of rain...
but what's that to showers of missiles and bullets?

I grumbled about the water over the road...
But what's that to no water at all - even to drink?

I grumbled about the dust in the house...
But what's that to a house full of stinking mud?

I grumbled about the cost of fuel...
But what's that to no fuel at all and no vehicle to put it in?

I grumbled about the smell of the wheelie-bin...

But what's that to the stench of street mountains of saturated household possessions?

I grumbled about the five hour wait in emergency...
but what's that to a rocket while giving birth?

I grumbled about the speed changes as roads are repaired...
But what's that to a slow trudging pace through freezing weather?

I grumbled... how disgusting!
 how pathetic!!
 how selfish!!!

God forgive me. Have mercy.
Jesus forgive me. Have mercy.
 Fill my heart with your love.
Spirit, fill my heart with your love.
Move me to respond with love to your hurting children.

(Name with-held by request)

THE WAR AND THE CHURCHES

When Russia invaded Ukraine, the acting general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva wrote to the Russian Orthodox Patriarch in Moscow, asking him to exert his influence to help bring about peace. I have read Patriarch Kyrill's reply. It is disappointing. He simply repeats the rhetoric of Putin. Since then, about 280 Russian Orthodox priests and church officials, from many countries, have dissociated themselves from Patriarch Kyrill and urged Putin to bring an end to the war. In Ukraine itself the Orthodox Church was for a long time under the jurisdiction of Moscow. That changed several years ago when most of the Orthodox parishes and priests established their own independent Orthodox Church. A minority of parishes stayed loyal to Moscow. In crisis situations the WCC is often active, whether it be a refugee crisis or a church suffering persecution. In the case of the war the influence of the WCC is limited, but at least it is expressing its solidarity with the Ukrainian Church and people. It does this on behalf of millions of Christians, including the UCA and other member-churches in Australia.

D'Arcy Wood
22nd March 2022.

Minister led worship in April are noted in the Calendar. These Sundays Holy Communion will be taken either by Rose Broadstock or Annette Buckley. Other Sunday services across the partnership are led by local lay worship leaders as arranged by each church.

Worship across the partnership weekly Sunday service times:

- 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

Romsey Events in April

Sunday 3rd 9am Worship Service conducted by Keith Hallett
Wednesday 6th 1.30am Church Council
Sunday 10th 9am Worship Service conducted by Trevor Turnham
Wednesday 13th 1.30am UCAF
Sunday 17th 9am Worship Service conducted by Jeni Clampit
Sunday 24th 9am Worship Service and Holy Communion conducted by a Minister.



RIDDELLS CREEK - THE WHITE GOOSE - GOOD NEWS!

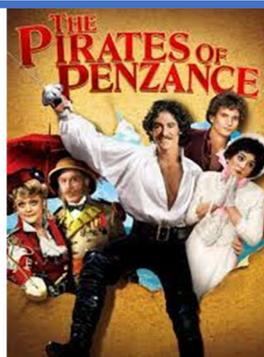
The work on the property at Riddell is almost complete.

The church has been cleaned and we have new couches! By the time you read this we will have had a 'working bee' inside and out and participated in the 'Riddell Expo' on the 26th March.

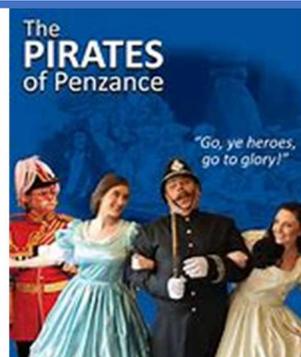
We hope to participate with the Neighbourhood House and Seed Savers in a joint activity on the 2nd April (keep an eye out for the Ministry Team news [missives] for more details)

By then we should also be ready to begin opening regularly again.

DO come and visit us again or for the first time - we have many new books (for us!) to go on display and of course more helpers will be warmly welcomed.



The Pirates of Penzance



The Romsey Uniting Church
Invites you to join us for an afternoon of
music, fun and laughter
from Gilbert & Sullivan's
'The Pirates of Penzance'

performed by the Singularity Choir
Sunday, 15th May, 2022 at 1.30pm
in the Romsey Uniting Church Hall,
25 Pohlman Street Romsey
Cost: \$20.00 Concession \$15.00

RSVP. Before 5th May, 2022

Jeni Clampit 5429 5480. Mobile 0429 050 184

Email: jeniferclampit@bigpond.com Or mail to P.O. Box 264, Romsey.
3434.

Name and phone number to be supplied. Payment may be made on the day
All Covid-19 rules apply. Everyone should be fully vaccinated
Afternoon tea will be provided.

East Coast Flood Appeal

Dear friends,

I am calling for support from across Victoria and Tasmania to join in a national appeal for communities affected by record-breaking floods across the east coast of Australia.

The national appeal has been launched by Uniting Church in Australia President, Rev Sharon Hollis.

<https://uniting.church/east-coast-flooding-emergency-appeal/>

Over the last few days, thousands of people and communities have been affected by intense rains and flooding across the eastern coast of Australia. The rains continue to move south, affecting the lives and livelihoods of communities across vast areas of the east coast.

I am inviting the VicTas Uniting Church community to contribute to the National Disaster Relief Fund and to join in prayer: ***"We pray for those whose lives and livelihoods are impacted. We pray for communities supporting each other. We pray for emergency and relief workers giving of themselves to those most affected. We pray for friends and neighbours reaching out from afar, to give support in whatever ways they can."***

Grace and Peace, Rev. Denise Liersch [VicTas Moderator]



I looked around the reception foyer of the 20-year old retirement complex that I was visiting for the first time and my skin prickled.

This was my first visit, yet I had been there before. The facility had been built on the site of a long-gone school where I had worked for many years. The foyer, I realised, was in exactly the same space where my office had once stood all those years before. Somehow the very air spoke to me of it.

Like ghosts, memories of the past swirled around me regardless of their new surrounds. Nothing was familiar, yet I knew I had somehow returned. Was this just fanciful?

Reflection:

God said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

(Exodus 3:5)

Perhaps this was a tantalising glimpse of what it is like when our indigenous folk feel their connection to country?

Just what is it about certain places and spaces that evoke such powerful feelings? Cathedrals, towering forests, glorious vistas, song lines, thin places. On finding them, on suddenly sensing them, we are at peace; reminded to relax, to 'be', to bathe in the joy of life itself.

Remembering wherever and whenever the sacred has kissed our consciousness, reawakening a deep awareness of divine love, is something to be treasured indeed.

Some spaces are indeed sacred.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| <h1>April 2022</h1> | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | 10am Prayers at Gisborne | CoCo World Autism Awareness Day |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Lent 5 9am Tylden AB | 11am Lenten Study Woodend | | | UN World Health Day | 10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton HC - AB | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Palm/Passion Sunday 9.30am Gisborne AB 10am Mia Mia RB | 11am Lenten Study Woodend | 10am Muffin'n'More at Gisborne | | | Good Friday Service at Gisborne (RB) 10am Prayers at Gisborne | *PiP articles due tomorrow please |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| Easter Day 9.30am Kyneton AB | (Easter Monday public holiday) | | | | 10am Prayers at Gisborne 5pm Warragul UC visit to Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Easter 2 9am Romsey AB | ANZAC Day | 10am Gisborne Contemporary Worship | 10am Ministers Munch Redesdale | | 10am Prayers at Gisborne | |



Sacrededge is our response to a sometimes harsh and fearful world. It is an opportunity to connect with people from diverse backgrounds. Rather than debate and argue about issues Q&A style, this unique festival listens to people from the edge... their stories, music, poetry.

Our presenters, artists & performers come from a range of backgrounds – Indigenous, Refugee, LGBTIQ folk, Carers for the Earth and Ocean. They are the voices from the edge who are vulnerable and not normally heard.

Sacrededge is a lived experience of how we can treasure each other in all our glorious diversity and find our hearts and minds expanded and enriched.

Information & Bookings: www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au

Lenten Study 2022

Macedon Ranges Partnership

Reflecting on the journey to the Cross in Luke, and in the light of three contemporary films.

Woodend Uniting Church,

Mondays 28 March, 4 & 11 April, 11am - 2pm.

We will begin with coffee and a devotion, watch the film, and then discuss over lunch.

Week 1:

Luke 21: 37 - 22: 53 AND

Film: *Babette's Feast*

Set in Jutland, Denmark, two older sisters live on an isolated and desolate island under the strict supervision of their pastor father. Unexpectedly, Babette, a refugee arrives to cook for the family. As a thank you, she decides to put on a feast to end all feasts. Will the pious and dwindling congregation take part?



Week 2:

Luke 22: 54 - 23: 31 AND

Film: *Chocolat*

Based on a true but different story, Vianne, a young woman with a child, arrives in a small French village where most are members of the local Catholic Church. To survive, she opens a Chocolate shop, just as Lent begins.



Week 3:

Luke 23: 32 - 24: 12 AND

Film: *Jesus of Montreal*

A troupe of actors are paid to put on a Passion Play. Daniel plays Jesus, and as the rehearsals progress, his life begins to echo the trials of Jesus in unexpected ways.



RSVP

Let Annette or Rose know if you intend on coming. We will be glad to have time with you!!

Annette 0457 608539 annettebuckley@ucaromsey.com

Rose 0416 805022 rbroadstock@icloud.com

Gweneth Wisewould. Outpost Doctor by Ian Braybrook. A book about a local character in Trentham.

Gweneth came from a well-to-do and privileged family. She studied medicine, graduating in 1910. But she didn't take a life of money or luxury. She ended up serving people in the Trentham area, not that far from here.

She was unconventional. She wore men's trousers and drove an old Ford utility. But she cared for her patients, visiting them in remote Bush places, some of whom were lonely, derelict men – victims of the Depression and alcohol, others having had accidents.

She didn't send them a bill but a lot of people paid up, and I think a lot of repayments were in “goods”. But she was so well-loved and she definitely served the district. Quoting from the book which has been written by Ian Braybrook he said that, “Almost without exception, people in Trentham District spoke of Gwen in glowing terms. It is rare indeed to find a person unanimously admired.” She worked in the district during the 1930s and 40s and kept that up until she was quite old herself (1970's).

The book I found quite absorbing, well-written and interesting. And I could relate to it because she worked in our local area.

Published by Bennett Publishing in 2016, I could recommend anyone to read it and enjoy learning about the life of that eccentric, dedicated and amazing woman.

Review by Wendy Hebbard

Missing something? If you know of meetings or events happening in your congregation and you're not seeing them here in PiP please let Robyn know – you will help us all to be informed

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

Macedon Ranges Partnership is part of the Port Phillip West Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia.

| | |
|--|--|
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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, 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) | | | | | |
| <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 will be out at the end of April and I will be needing any articles, stories, photos by Easter which is on **Sunday 17th April 2022**.

Please write to me at zumstein@mmnet.com.au or you can pop something in the post or my letterbox, or call – I'm happy to take notes over the phone too.

Robyn (contact details at bottom of Contact list under Z 😊)

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