



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 64 APRIL 2021



The rumbling began.
The beginning of the end of the beginning.
The culmination of the earthly life of God in human
form.

Angel sentinels, tense and impatient.
Standing alert.
Ready to go.

At earthly noon
They opened the crack.
Silently winging between heaven and earth.

An inky blanket of shadowy darkness
Stretched and billowing between them.
Dropped over and settling on Golgotha and
Jerusalem.

Covering the whole grisly, horrible scene.
Enveloping the characters in the story
Stopping them in their tracks.

Tick, tick, tick, one o'clock.

A loud cry coming from the depths of his being.
He can be silent no longer.
Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

Tick, tick, tick, two o'clock.

Taunting and derision and sour wine offered.
Laboured breathing and searing pain.
Eerie silence and mindless chatter.

Tick, tick, tick, three o'clock.

Then, a final cry and a final breath.
He. Breathed. His. Last.
Exhale.

A divine soul leaving a man's body.
And then through the "thin places"
All heaven broke loose!

Holy temple curtain ripped in two and the earth
shook.

Unbreakable rocks split.
Graves opened, and saintly bodies raised!

And for those who were witnesses
All doubt is gone.
"Truly this man is God's son"

(continued on pg 3)

Attending a retreat day in February, Linda and
Annette set up a prayer station with a candle



for each of the
congregations
and places of
mission and
ministry in the
Partnership
From top down:
Sutton Grange
Barfold
Mia Mia
Metcalf
Kyneton
Tylden
Woodend
Romsey
Gisborne
Riddells Creek

LECTIONARY Readings Year B

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.

Date	Day/Season	Color	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
29 Mar	Monday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 42:1-9	36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
30 Mar	Tuesday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 49:1-7	71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
31 Mar	Wednesday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
1 Apr	Maundy 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
2 Apr	Good Friday	B or 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
3 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
4 Apr	Easter Day	W	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9	118:1-2, 4-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
11 Apr	Easter 2	W	Acts 4:32-35	133	1 John 1:1 to 2:2	John 20:19-31
18 Apr	Easter 3	W	Acts 3:12-19	4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
25 Apr	Easter 4	W	Acts 4:5-12	23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
2 May	Easter 5	W	Acts 8:26-40	22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

COCO REPORT FOR PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT - 6TH MARCH 2021

We were pleased to welcome Rev Linley Liersch and Rev Deac Jeanne Beale from Presbytery to our CoCo meeting which was held in the Woodend Church. It was the first time we had met face-to-face for 12 months and everyone enjoyed being able to catch-up in person.

We reflected on the three values as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding for the Macedon Ranges Partnership, of Faith, Hope and Love. We discussed where we had found these in the 5 years of the Partnership, and where it had sometimes been difficult. Also in this season of Lent, we questioned if there were there things our congregations were doing that we could

'let go of', and if there were things we could 'take up' that might lighten the load on the Ministry Team.

Correspondence : A letter was received from Presbytery affirming the separation of the Lancefield and Mt. Macedon congregations from the Partnership. This prompted a brief discussion about information on the Partnership's website : it was agreed that references to Lancefield and Mt Macedon in relation to Partnership membership and activities be deleted and they be given an opportunity to have a weblink for their congregations.

General : We discussed Presbytery's proposals for the future development of the Partnership and it was agreed

that Presbytery leaders would meet with all congregations to talk this through with them initially.

There will be a Partnership Service at Gisborne on Sunday 11th April at 10 am to recognise the new structure of the Partnership and to hear from the Presbytery team who have been working with us.

This will be followed by a BYO lunch and further conversations about the future of the Partnership.

Ministry Report: A very comprehensive report of 'events and happenings' which included:

- A new group is working on video worship planning and production.
- Conversations with Romsey/Lancefield Neighbourhood Houses about Feed it Forward lunches.
- Commencement of Book Zoom Club "Walking in this World" on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
- A reminder that the Ministry Team work as a Team, so please include both members on your emails if it relates to any concerns you may have. However if it is in relation to a service that one of the Team is leading, then contact with that Minister is appropriate.
- Also a reminder that the Team members are never too busy to hear your concerns.
- Thanks to all those who provide leadership in Worship and other ministry around the Partnership.

Next meeting: Saturday 10th April, by Zoom.

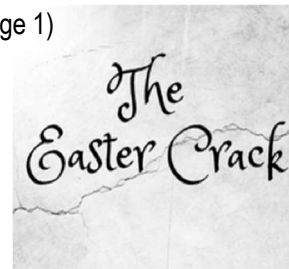
There will be a **Partnership service at Gisborne on Sunday 11th April (first Sunday after Easter) at 10.00 am** to recognise the new structure of the Partnership and to hear from the Presbytery team who have been working with us. The plan is as follows:

10 am worship
11 ☺ Grab a cuppa
11:15 – 12 noon Partnership Goals and Realities
12 – 12:30 BYO Lunch
12:30 – 2pm 'Options & What's next?'

We hope that this will be a celebration of our dreams and visions, and a renewal of our sense of call to serve God in the Macedon Ranges together. We are hoping that as many people as possible will come. Please arrange to travel together, if you can. Annette is happy to pass on any offers or requests for transport.

When we went into lockdown the ministry team provided everyone with a 'survival kit' which contained a number of items. One of them was a small strip of coloured paper, with the hope that you would keep it until we met up again. Please could you either bring it with you to the Partnership service, or take it to church to start the process of making a chain. Remember - every link is vital! If you have lost your link and would like a replacement, If you don't have one, we'll provide some extra strips on the day.

(from page 1)



Sunday dawns and the crack is still open.
Mary Magdalene, grieving
Arrives at his resting place.

But he's not there and the stone is gone.
He hasn't been there for some time.
He's moved to the "thin place".

"Why are you weeping?"
Ask the angel sentinels.
Wondering at her tears.

Eyes full of tears.
Out of focus.
She doesn't see. She doesn't see

What's in front of her
What's behind her
She turns.

Tears spilling, "Why are you weeping?"
Tears flooding, "Whom are you looking for?"
She says, "Please tell me where have you laid him?"

Then,
His voice cuts through her grief
And pierces her soul.

Just one word

One. Single. Word

That started a revolution of resurrection
news.

"Mary!"

by Wendy Johnston
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<https://onceuponastorytold.org/blog-3/>

Wendy Johnston is a Master Biblical Storyteller who lives in Derry, Northern Ireland. Originally from Australia, Wendy has also lived in Papua New Guinea and in the Republic of Ireland. This piece is part of a suite of reflections on biblical stories, which currently includes "Advent Crack" and "Lenten Crack"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
April 2021					Good Friday	Holy Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easter Day	Easter Monday				10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton	Co-Co meeting via Zoom
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Partnership Service at Gisborne Easter 2	2.30pm Faith Community Woodend				10am Prayers at Gisborne	PIP items due tomorrow!
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Easter 3	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community				10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Easter 4	Faith Community Woodend 2.30pm or if possible, at: 3.30pm RM Begg Worship		10am Ministers munch Redesdale			

It's time to care

Uniting AgeWell is encouraging us to sign a petition. You can find it on their website under the title "It's time to care". While urging you to sign, I also heave a huge sigh of despair. It has been time to care for many decades.

Our national history of the development of aged care is a rich and reputable one, beginning with a post-war concern for older people who had little or no supportive family to care for them. Hence the provision of much appreciated hot lunches and social gatherings.

Residential care came slowly. I well remember the endless corridors of grey concrete which seemed to dominate the Queen Elizabeth Centre in Ballarat where people of all ages and with a variety of disabilities were massed together. Fortunately, there were many concerned people who saw the limitations of this sort of institution. Local churches began to plan to provide for their own older members, and hence what came to be called independent living units.

It was Dame Pattie Menzies who urged her prime minister husband to fund care for older citizens. And so came residential aged care in a form we could recognise now. The churches, along with community organisations such as Lions and the RSL, built separate accommodation for those older people who could no longer support themselves.

While not wanting to see aged care history through rose coloured glasses, there was value in the fact that these homes were local and locally supported. Friends and neighbours could 'pop in', staff were likely to be local also. Of course it was also the time before the now epidemic of dementia, the latter partly a result of adding many years to life.

To fast track to more recent times, the system now is no longer local. It is the instrument of federal and state governments and a highly complex system it is. Acts of Parliament have, properly,

set up requirements for accreditation and regular assessments. The language is dominated by terms such as 'funding models' and, worst of all, facilities are officially described by the number of 'beds'.

While the Uniting Church has recognised the need for residential, and home, care for all of its existence, the increasing governmental requirements almost drove it out of the provision of aged care in Victoria at the turn of this century. Instead, the synod voted to continue to provide care, recognising that this would take a greater investment of time, funds and expertise.

The national profile of residential aged care changed considerably when private for-profit providers entered the field. There is no doubt this signalled a cultural change of significant proportions placing care and profit in the same sentence. Unfortunately, sometimes profit has won out over care. Perhaps all I need to say is that some facilities spend a mere \$6 per day on food for residents. Beware the ubiquitous, non-nutritious, meal of party pies!

For the past two decades Uniting AgeWell (at first Uniting Aged Care) has set high standards for itself in terms of the quality of care and an intentional placing of the resident at the centre of that care. Its basic premise is that aged care is a human right and that the centrepiece of care is the individual. It has adopted progressive ideas such as co-design and the provision of a professional pathway for its staff. It has made many submissions to the many inquiries and commissions conducted by governments over these years. It has been a very active participant in national bodies representing like-minded aged care providers.

While I do need to declare a close interest in UAW I don't think it is an idle boast. Information is available on its website and in its monthly publication Dove Talk. It must report to synod each year and is always under the scrutiny of the synod's Standing Committee. It is the first aged care agency to set up a


community advisory committee as well as family and resident committee in each facility.

Any aged care provider knows it is at the mercy of tomorrow's negative headline. Too often this can drive providers to hide problems. Providing high-level medical care at the same time as a warm and happy home for residents is not easy. Honesty and openness have to be seen as primary virtues. And it's always time to care.

Janet Wood

Former chair, Uniting Aged care

Current member, Uniting AgeWell Community Advisory Committee



Australian Aged Care Collaboration

It's time to care about aged care.

As a nation, we have spent more than two decades looking at how to fix our aged care system. With the Royal Commission set to deliver a historic set of recommendations, we can't let this opportunity pass us by.

The Australian Government must commit to comprehensive reform of the aged care system so all older Australians are supported and enabled to live their lives with dignity.

Show your support.

Sign the petition NOW.

CareAboutAgedCare.org.au

Response to the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

The Royal Commission released its final report on the 1st March this year. It was the latest in 20 government reports into aged care over the last 20 years. It identified significant problems and proposed solutions to them.

A question for us is: How can we ensure that this report is taken seriously by our community and acted on by our government? As people who are called to speak out for the most vulnerable people in our communities, we have a responsibility to voice our concerns and to speak out for people who might otherwise not have their voice heard.

Janet has outlined some of the story of the Uniting Church's role in providing care to older Australians over a long period of time. I'm hoping that our congregations can contribute to the raising of this issue in the community so that the Royal Commission's report is not swept away by the tsunami of events in the news cycle. How can we work together to raise community awareness and hopefully provoke a sincere and worthwhile response from our government?

Uniting AgeWell has joined with five other aged care peak bodies to form the Australian Aged Care Collaboration (AACC). The AACC has a campaign that is focusing on marginal electorates that have an older demographic than the average in Australia. While this isn't our situation in the Macedon Ranges, we could still use the resources they have produced to raise awareness.



We will have printed material available in the churches for you to take and distribute to your friends and family and local businesses.

We can help you sign the online petition, if you don't have access to the internet...please ask me about this! For those people who do, the petition can be found at:

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

Encourage your friends and family to sign the petition too!

This website also has lots of information and resources.

Write to your local MPs and to the Prime Minister and Minister responsible for aged care and express your concerns:

The Hon Scott Morrison MP

Prime Minister

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senator The Hon. Richard Colbeck

Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

You may have some other ideas. Can we gather groups of people together to be informed? Can we encourage others to take action with us? Can we speak to the aged care facilities in our communities to see whether they are part of AACC and ask how we can support them? You may have other ideas.... let me know.

It's (well past) time to care about aged care!

Ps Annette Buckley

Advance Notice:

On Sunday 30th May, 2021 The Singularity Choir will again be giving a performance in the Romsey Uniting Church Hall. This year they will be performing Gilbert & Sullivan's **The Mikado**.

Cost: \$20.00 per person or \$15.00 concession.

Because of the Covid-19 social distancing seating is limited, therefore bookings must be made. To make a booking please contact –

Jeni Clampit 5429 5480 or email: jeniferclampit@bigpond.com

For PiP

From Linley Liersch March 2020

Jeanne Beale (Presbytery Ministry) and Linley Liersch (Mission DSE) have come alongside the Macedon Ranges partnership at this time of transition. We have met the ministry team and CoCo to develop a process of supporting you on the journey forward. This process consists of visiting congregations and outreaches and having a conversation around the realities that face the partnership.

We acknowledge that the 5 year Review was hard to receive as a partnership. It suggested that a split was needed in the partnership. Lancefield UC and Mount Macedon UC took the opportunity to withdraw from the partnership and continue as separate and independent congregations.

With the awareness that the presbytery 5 year seed funding ceased, the Macedon Ranges Partnership has moved from the equivalent of 3 Full time to 1.5 ministry agents. In the past, the ministry team has been wonderfully supported by Meg Evans as Minister-in-Association. The Current ministry team consists of Annette Buckley and Linda Young (Part-time) This means the partnership needs to revisit the realities of less ministry support. Linley & Jeanne have enjoyed their time visiting the congregations and mission outreaches across the partnership and looking at the new realities the partnership faces.

The conversations (so far) have been around renewed emphasis on lay leadership support and resourcing. The possibilities of seeking a grant to improve on-line technology to access on-line worship provided by the ministry team. Looking at more lectionary and on-line resources. Letting go of traditional models of ministry where the minister 'visits me in my home' and recognise the ministry team as providing 'crisis care'. The possibility of moving fellowship groups into local café's to be the presence of Christ in the community. The need to nurture growing mission opportunity in local communities.

The combined partnership worship on 11th April 10 am Gisborne will acknowledge the separation from Mount Macedon and Lancefield congregations, and look to bring the renewed MRP together to focus on a renewed commitment to the vision and the goals of the partnership.

A Journey to the Mountain. (Part 3).

I arrive at last at the little township of Wycheproof, exhausted but enriched by our journey to date, and behold I come to a Well for replenishment and renewal, the local bakery is open and a small stream of people are respectfully gathering for coffee and food, masked and distancing a feeling of hope and comfort and human interaction begins to renew me. I nod and smile at all from behind my mask with some attempt at gracious conversation I receive my refreshments and depart, unfortunately immediately as is required by lockdown arrangements. A tour of the township ensues with its enormously wide main street with, incredibly a railway line running the entire length of the median plantation I set down at the local park to take a break, enjoy my bakery fare and read and present the good news to any who may pass by.

Hapless, is the word to describe, the park is, naturally deserted and I am alone again, but wait, I recall, God is walking with me , so he is around here somewhere, Hello, hello, apologies from me to Him, I forgot all about Him for a time there, ,, when I was feeling hope and comfort I neglect, as I have so many times, to include Him, and as I glance down at my bible in a

"Squicky". (A Squicky is a short silent prayer to ask forgiveness for a sin that is not a big sin but really does need a prayer so I don't get weighed down by it.), ... OK , where was I..? Yep, I was glancing at my bible on the bench in the park and just as my Squicky was happening I heard the name Timothy called out from a home across the road from the park. I looked across and there was a mother calling to her Son to come inside,, I thought no more about this, at the time.

Replenished, refreshed, renewed and fueled up I noted the base of Mt Wycheproof from the conveniently located Mapboard in the park, (thanks be to the Holy Spirit for being with us and guiding us with mapboards), I ventured forth in my car with growing anticipation that my trek up the mountain was about to commence.. I would finally finish my mission to seek the face of God, Another Squicky here, I prayed that the trek would not be too arduous as my legs don't much enjoy walking up hills too much nowadays...

And he answered that Prayer in Abundance.. the street that leads to the base of the Mountain doesn't end at the base, it continues up the mountain with joyous bitumen all the way to the pinnacle...!!!. Hooray for God, Hooray for us.. !! No walking.. Well, I did acquiesce somewhat and parked about 20 metres from the summit and trekked the remainder, upwards, onwards, the winding road, passing the town water tank, another



Mapboard, telecommunications tower and other sundry bibs & bobs of human occupation... At journeys end, the top of the mountain I stood peacefully beside a manufactured globeular, (is that a word?) steel statuette type thingamabob, (what else to describe it.?) which marks the very highest point of Mt Wycheproof.

The breeze is chilling despite the dazzling brightness of the late morning Sunshine, the views across God's creation are exhilarating, being alone atop this mount with our triune God who has been with me on this journey of faith is and was and still is a tremendous teaching and healing experience, the breeze bites hard through my clothing as I snap photo's to take home to those who could not be with me, Marge,

Beryl, Robyn, Jim, Peter, Annette, Linda Noel, Mary, Keith, Dot, Timothy, Elaine & Briony, Susan, Mavis, Christine, et al, Cherry & Milly who dutifully wait at our home. My thoughts continue as I walk quietly across the Summit, praying with God to direct my thoughts as to the question. God, why am I here? God, what is the real reason I am here.? The breeze is now



a freezing wind and my fingers can no longer function the buttons of my camera, the ground is cold through my shoes, and the pains of my arthritis are beginning, I must depart with my questions still unanswered, my faith deepened and my trust In my faith an absorbing and encompassing trial of seeking.. Always seeking. Always seeking his face, and as I hurriedly trekked back to seek the warmth and comfort of my Car the name Timothy once again came to my ears.

Who the Heck is Timothy.?

Brian Lauder, March 2021

Note: this story came with a request: "I would like to leave the grammar as it is, Imperfect and Human." Thanks for sharing your journey with us Brian! (ed)

Coping with COVID-19 at Mount Macedon Uniting Church: a reflection

Confusion reigned at our church when the first wave of COVID-19 started in Victoria in early March 2020. Some advice was to cancel all services and meetings but the Synod did not recommended worship be cancelled, instead providing guidance on how to minimise potential exposure.

However, on 18 March, Bunnings cancelled all sausage sizzles until further notice, including our session at Sunbury on Saturday 21 March, but they also announced that organisations would receive \$500 in Gift Vouchers, so that was a good offset.

After an email consultation, our congregation decided to hold our planned service on 22 March, but members were advised to make their own decision according to their risk assessment, but not to attend if unwell or at high risk. We had 17 people attend, 4 or 5 less than average but our planned AGM was deferred. Initially, it was intended to still open the church on Sundays for private devotions or meditation but, although Synod could not give firm advice, we also ceased this.

That Sunday, the Premier announced more severe restrictions on gatherings, so all services and meetings were suspended until further notice.

By mid-May the first wave was tapering off and restrictions on gathering eased. When gatherings of up to 20 people were imminent, we started planning to recommence worship and meetings. The Leadership Team met to work through the Checklist for congregations required by Synod and found that it was not too difficult to comply with the rules. We measured the church, hall and kitchen and calculated that we could have 19 people in the church, 18 in the hall and 3 in the kitchen under the "four square metre rule", but only 1 person at a time in the toilets! We held a working bee on Friday 22 May to clean the church and put up all the notices and set up an attendance register ready to go.

The Men's Group met on 2 June and worship was held on Sunday 7 June led by the worship team and complete with hand cleansing, face masks and spacing. Fortunately, we had installed the large screen TV a couple of years before so we could display the words of the hymns and responsive prayers without books, which were not recommended for use, and recorded music. We also did not have our usual morning tea but 16 grateful members attended.

Sunday worship, Thistle Club and Men's Group meetings, plus a couple of meetings with Presbytery officers, continued for the next 9 weeks under similar arrangements with a mix of worship team, members, lay preachers and retired ministers leading services until the second wave took off in Greater Melbourne, when activities were again suspended: we averaged 17 attendees each week.

All during this period, we communicated news, COVID-19 updates as they affected us, Partnership news and PiP, Presbytery and Synod notices and news about members to everyone via email. We are fortunate that all except one member has email so only one letter had to be posted.

(continued on page 12)

The following article comes from Wendy, who has been dictating to her computer instead of typing recently.

Ringing the Bells

We picked up the local paper in Rosebud on the Mornington Peninsula and were pleased to read about the Reverend Bronwyn Pryor.

She is the minister at the Dromana Rosebud Uniting Church. Recently the two churches Rang their bells at 11 am as part of a global multi- faith day of action in which about 100 faith communities called for more ambitious action on climate change. Good luck!

Bronwyn Pryor said "we are protesting for the climate and ecological devastation that is imminent in our near future. A protest at the 11th hour we feel is necessary for any action by governments to be effective in stopping it. People of faith don't usually take action on such matters but we feel it is time our voices were heard as well.

We are digging out our old church bells from retirement and ring them again, the sound of which has not been heard for many decades. The old Bell at Dromana was not only heard as it called to worship on Sundays but was used by the local fire brigade in an emergency. Parishioner Helen, said, "I worry about the kind of future my grandchildren WILL face when they're adults. I also care about farmers, battling drought, Pacific Islanders who are seeing their homes swamped by the sea, life on the Great Barrier Reef and all the places we love. It is irresponsible to say Australia is a small player; we are the largest exporter of coal and gas and per person we have one of the highest carbon footprints - Good on you Bronwyn!

This was reported in the Southern Peninsula news on March 17 2021 and I found it very interesting.

Many of us are familiar with Bronwyn Pryor from her visits to our area

submitted by Wendy Hebbard from a recent holiday we had on the Mornington Peninsula.

EASTER

The tomb is open,
the Lord is no longer
stretched out in death.

The tomb is open
the Lord Jesus
has passed through death.

HE IS ALIVE!

We see him over there,
standing and joyful,
he calls us on the way
where we move away
from death
to launch into
the fullness of life.

IT IS EASTER!

(Copyright Ann Weems in Kneeling in
Jerusalem Westminster/John Knox Press 1992)

14.

Talk slower. Talk less. Don't
talk. Communication isn't
measured by words.



16.

Make time for play—the things
you like to do. Whatever your
age, your inner child needs
re-creation.



MINISTRY TEAM WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR APRIL

Date	Service details	Minister	Notes
Thursday 1st	Maundy Thursday Gisborne	Rev Linda Young	7.30pm
Friday 2nd	Good Friday Kyneton 6.30 pm	Ps Annette Buckley	Fish & Chips
Sunday 4th	Easter Day Tylden 9.00 am Romsey 9.00 am Kyneton 9.30 am	Rev Linda Young Rev. Deac. Meg Evans Ps Annette Buckley	Communion
Monday 5th	Easter Monday	-	No Woodend Faith Community
Friday 9th	Kyneton 6.30pm	Rev. Deac. Meg Young(sic)	Fish & Chips
Sunday 11th	Partnership Service at Gisborne		10am
Monday 12th	Woodend Faith Community	Ps Annette Buckley	2.30pm
Sunday 18th	Kyneton	Ps Annette Buckley	9.30am
Monday 19th	Woodend Faith Community	Ps Annette Buckley	2.30pm
Friday 23rd	Kyneton 6.30pm	Ps Annette Buckley	Fish & Chips
Sunday 25th	Romsey 9am	Rev Linda Young	
Monday 26th	RM Begg 3.30pm	Ps Annette Buckley	Woodend Faith Community meeting at RM Begg, if possible

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Friday, 2nd April **Good Friday** service 10.45am **Romsey** will join Lancefield Uniting Church (no service at Romsey on 11th – Partnership service at Gisborne 10am)

Woodend Faith Community is meeting weekly at 2.30pm behind the Woodend Church under the trees (weather permitting – otherwise in the church), not on Easter Monday.

Sunday 18th April **Service at Romsey** Trevor Turnham will conduct at 9am

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

Kyneton Fish'n'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 9th and 23rd March at 6.30pm

RM Begg Worship COVID-allowing, all are welcome to join on the 4th Monday of each month at 3.30 pm, this month on 26th March (Kyneton)

Mount Macedon Worship - will continue to be held on Sunday mornings at 10.30am. Three services will be held over Easter all led by Rev Lorraine Saultry: Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm; Good Friday at 9am; Easter Sunday at 10.30am

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

- Tylden is at 9am
- Gisborne is at 9.30am
- Mt Macedon is at 10.30am
- Romsey is at 9am
- Lancefield is at 10.45am

A Reflection (continued from page 8) In October, our great servant, organist emeritus George Fyfield, passed away but we were able to hold his funeral service officiated by Rev D'Arcy Wood, a long-time friend of George, along with 20 attendees and live streaming, although that did not go so well due to our poor mobile phone service.

By late October, we were waiting with baited breath as the cases declined in Greater Melbourne and larger gatherings could recommence. When it was announced that indoor Sunday worship services for up to 20 people plus a worship leader could recommence on Sunday 1 November we were ready. Since groups of no more than 10 and groups must be 10 metre apart, we roped off the church and hall with a TV monitor in the hall to comply. We did not recommence morning teas.

We have continued with various configurations of seating each Sunday since as the requirements have changed. Approaching Christmas, we cancelled our usual Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols but held this service on the Sunday morning before Christmas. A highlight was Edna Nolan playing the organ and 33 people attended. The Thistle Club and Men's Group were able to hold end-of-year lunches, if somewhat more subdued.

Since January, we have continued to move towards increasingly normal activities except for Sunday 14 February when the Victorian Premier announced the state-wide Stage 4 snap lockdown. We set up the Service Victoria QR Code for recording attendances and also recorded attendance manually with the membership list. We recommenced morning teas on 31 January with modified service arrangements. We also had a very successful Bunnings sausage sizzle.

Although it has been a challenge, we have maintained our links and engagement with our congregation, and our services and activities are nearly normal to pre-COVID-19 times. Attendance is again averaging 22 each week as it was pre-COVID-19 and nearly all members attended at some time over the period.

We look forward to all getting vaccinated soon and being able to ease the remaining restrictions and mix more closely again.

Neil Tweddle

Address label

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<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 18th April**. 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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