



# PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 85 MARCH 2023

## INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

As Members of the Uniting Church, we are part of a covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, (Congress) to walk together as First and Second peoples.

So, what does this mean? It means that as we do this journeying together, we will learn from, and of, each other. If we walk together honestly and openly then we will hear of past hurts and long-term pain for both parties of the covenant. We will hear too of joys and celebrations, of histories and rituals, again for both parties of the covenant. It is in this truth-telling that we can begin to understand and see situations from each other's perspective. It is only with this understanding that we can grow and advance to the benefit of both First and second Peoples, the Uniting Church and indeed our Nation.

We know massacres happened in the northern areas of the Partnership. Why?

We don't know exactly why, but we can be sure there were misunderstandings by local First Nations people and settlers, explorers, soldiers and other Second comers.

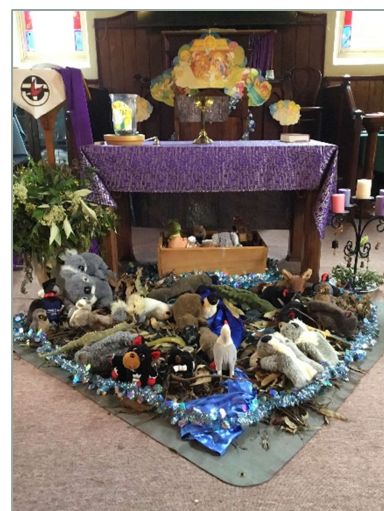
We no longer massacre First Nations people; but their death, incarceration, alcoholism, violence and hospitalisation rates are well above the national average; while life span, secondary and tertiary education rates fall well below the national average.

The Uluru Statement or Statement from the Heart (pictured below) is a significant document in our Nation's History. We cannot afford to continue to ignore it. The Voice to Parliament is an important part of that document. We need to be as much informed as we can by a wide variety of speakers and writers on the subject so that we make an informed and intelligent vote. Both the Yes and No cases will launch campaigns to inform and educate the Australian population as much as possible before voting day.

(continued on page 3)



**Walking Together  
as First and Second  
Peoples**



Statement of the Heart (above) – to read the full statement find it here:  
<https://fromtheheart.com.au/uluru-statement/the-statement/>  
 Tylden's Advent and Christmas Nativity scene is pictured right

## LECTIONARY Readings Year A

### 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
26 Feb	Lent 1	P	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
5 Mar	Lent 2	P	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17, or Matthew 17:1-9
12 Mar	Lent 3	P	Exodus 17:1-7	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
19 Mar	Lent 4	P	1 Samuel 16:1-13	23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
25 Mar	Annunciation of the Lord	W	Isaiah 7:10-14	45 or 40:5-10	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
26 Mar	Lent 5	P	Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
2 Apr	Palm Sunday	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11
2 Apr	Passion Sunday	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14 to 27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

Advertising the **White Goose** at the Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House on Valentine's Day with a display of "blind books". A blind book? Books are wrapped in brown paper with an enticing comment, but not the title or author! They've been quite popular. Why don't you come to the WG and try one with our delicious tea and coffee and a treat.



### FIRST NATION WRITERS & SPEAKERS ON STATEMENT FROM THE HEART and YES VOTE:

Megan Davis (Prof)

Thomas Mayor

Tom Calma (Prof)

Noel Pearson

Pat Anderson

Marcia Langton

Linda Burney (Indig Affairs Min)

Stan Grant

### NO VOTE:

Warren Mundine

Lydia Thorpe (MP)

Jacinta Price (MP)

James Conlan

### INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY:

Michael Mansel

Lydia Thorpe

Larissa Behrendt (Prof)

(from page 1) Let me tell you part of my own story which may help you understand my passion for this process of Voice, Truth Telling Commission and Treaty. I have spent some 25 years working with and living in First Nation communities with First Nation peoples in Papua New Guinea, and mostly North Queensland with some experience in the Northern Territory. I have seen and felt firsthand the effects of dispossession and dislocation, of cultural and language destruction, of violence and alcohol abuse, and of the experiences of powerlessness that this brings. I have seen and experienced the physical, mental and emotional pain that this brings. I have walked and sat on the earth and listened and learned, felt the pain, experiencing guilt and wept with my indigenous family accepting their grace and love.

I have also seen the strength of First Nation people who have been encouraged to hold onto their culture - including their deep spirituality and language (both integral parts of each other). I have learnt that walking together includes listening and hearing, respecting, sharing, honouring a timeless spirituality and accepting its wisdom.

I conclude by reminding you of statements by the UAICC Interim National Chair Rev Mark Kickett and Uniting Church in Australia President Rev Sharon Hollis who encouraged UCA members to mark 26 January with respect urging Australians to listen to the wisdom and voices of First Peoples in their struggle for justice and healing.

"This day marks the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, the First Peoples of this ancient land. We've been here for millennia. We are people with a long history, rich culture and deep spirituality. We have a wisdom and a story to share. And so today, we celebrate our resilience," says Rev Kickett, a proud Noongar man.

Rev Hollis says that as Second Peoples in the Uniting Church, we affirm the sovereignty of First Peoples and honour their custodianship of the land. She encourages all Australians to commit to listening to the truth of this land, particularly as we move towards a referendum on a First Peoples Voice.

"We pray that this year might be a moment of reckoning in our nation, when we face the truth of the past and the present of our nation in ways that promote healing and justice."

"We invite you not just to vote yes, but to be part of the campaign, to have conversations with others in ways that might open the possibility of a new story for our nation," says Rev Hollis.

Elsewhere in PiP (see page 2) you will find a list of First Nations Writers and Speakers on the Statement From The Heart and voting on The Voice to Parliament.

Grace and Peace,

Meg.

(Rev Deac. Minister in Association)

## COCO REPORT OF 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

We discussed the possibility of providing a Long-Term Supply position for someone to work with Annette for the next 12 months, and it seems as though the Partnership will be able to support a 0.8 position. This is with the help of the Mia Mia Kyneton congregations providing 0.3 of the funds needed and the Partnership 0.5 (a total of 0.8). The person will spend around 50% of their time working around the Partnership and about 50% working with the Mia Mia Kyneton congregations. The application for this position is to be forwarded to PRC and will need Presbytery approval.

Services for this coming year are to be streamed with the 'host' congregation rotating on a 5 week basis. Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, and the system for blessing and distributing the elements is still being finalised so that all can share in communion on this first Sunday.

The quarterly Partnership service will include communion, and blessed elements from that service will be given to each congregation for the elders to distribute at the next Sunday service.

Continued on page 8

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2023</h1>			1	2	3	4
			9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne  World Day of Prayer	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Lent 2 9.30am Sutton Grange HC (tbc)	2.30 Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation 7.30pm Peter Barcham lecture Gisborne		9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton HC	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Lent 3 9.30am Tylden tbc	2.30 Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation	10am Muffin'n'More at Gisborne	9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	*PiP articles due tomorrow please
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Lent 4 9.30am Gisborne	2.30 Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation		9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek 10am Minister's Munch		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton	Annunciation of the Lord
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Lent 5 10am Kyneton	2.30pm Faith Community 3.30pm RM Begg 5.30pm Romsey Meditation		9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	



Thirteenth Annual  
Peter Barcham Memorial Lecture

## MUSLIMS IN AUSTRALIA: COMMON GROUND BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS

Presented by

**IMAM ALAA ELZOKM**



Gisborne Uniting Church  
23 Brantome Street, Gisborne

**MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023, at 7.30 P.M.**

Free Admission

Supper to follow

Enquiries to Janet or D'Arcy Wood, 5428 6700

**Welcome**  
back from  
*your holidays*  
**Annette!**



The Riddell geese on their way to **White Goose Books**  
Make sure you're not the only goose to miss out!  
Open Wednesdays  
9.30am till 1.30pm  
Tea, Coffee, Hot  
Chocolate and great  
company as well as books  
for everyone.



**HELP!!**

DO YOU -

**LOVE BOOKS?  
ENJOY CHATTING?**

WE NEED YOU

on a Wednesday morning

**at The White Goose**  
RIDDELLS CREEK

contact Meg Evans or Lyn W

### PETER BARCHAM LECTURE 2023

Relations between Christians and Muslims have often been very difficult. This is an under-statement. Muslims remember the Crusades of long ago and the invasions of recent times. Christians in Australia remember the Bali bombing and the huge destruction of 9/11.

The Uniting Church believes that relations between the various faiths should be friendly and co-operative wherever possible. To achieve this requires not only good will but a lot of work. Gisborne UC is making a small contribution to this effort by inviting **Imam Alaa Elzokm** to deliver the Peter Barcham Memorial Lecture for 2023. The Imam has accepted the invitation with enthusiasm. The Lecture will be on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 p.m.** and the title is:

**“Muslims in Australia: common ground between Muslims and Christians”**

The Imam will also take questions. He will be accompanied by other Muslims, so there will be opportunity during refreshments to meet them and discuss the Lecture.

Further information is available from Janet or D’Arcy Wood on 5428 6700.

### **IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL** by Horatio Spafford, 1873

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows, like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come  
let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate  
and has shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin – oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin – not in part, but in whole,  
Is nailed to His cross and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.

For me, be it Christ hence to live, if Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine for in death as in life,  
Thou will whisper your peace to my soul.

But, Lord, tis for Thee, for you coming we wait,  
the sky not the grave is our goal,  
O trump of the angel, O voice of the Lord,  
Blessed hope blessed rest of my soul.  
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

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This hymn was written after traumatic events in Spafford's life. First, the death of his four-year-old son. Second, the Great Chicago fire of 1871 which ruined him financially. He sent his wife and four daughters ahead to England by ship, but it sunk and the four daughters drowned. His wife telegraphed him from England – “Arrived safe, alone.” Shortly after, as Spafford travelled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his four daughters drowned.

From Wendy (who sent this to me with a card in the post – Ed.)

## Gisborne Community Connector (Chaplain) – Forging Friendship and Community Spirit in Local Neighbourhood

As many of us came to realise during the COVID- related lockdowns, social connection, engagement and participation are integral to achieving positive wellbeing.

In response, some local residents known as the ‘Gisborne Support Group,’ (who previously supported Gisborne Secondary College Chaplaincy) are taking steps to strengthen social cohesion, networks and support structures. As such, they have rallied together funds, formal networks and a facility to place a community connector in the heart of our region. The new connector role, filled by Jane Williams, provides an avenue to offer pastoral and practical care to individuals, families and the broader community.

Ms Williams will provide support regarding key life psychosocial issues, spirituality, ethics and personal matters while facilitating connection to community organisations, businesses, health providers and welfare agencies. The community connector role seeks to nurture meaningful conversations with Gisborne residents, grounded in respect, acceptance and sensitivity to other peoples’ views, values and beliefs.

The community connector initiative is formally commencing in late March. Ms Williams is working every Wednesday and will be based in the Gisborne Uniting Church, beside the Gisborne Community Care Foodbank. As a local resident, Ms Williams has a passion for community. She brings a wealth of experience in serving the wider Macedon Ranges region. Please reach out to the Community Connector at Gisborne Uniting Church from late March onwards, to share the joy of living in our wonderful neighbourhood and experience our thriving community spirit.

For inquiries, contact Richard Kolega on 03 9811 0999 or [rkolega@korusconnect.org.au](mailto:rkolega@korusconnect.org.au)

### Research Shows Connector Role Improves Wellbeing

Korus Connect is a Melbourne-based charity providing pastoral care services throughout Victoria. It is also responsible for implementing the community connector program of which Ms Williams is an integral part, in collaboration with the Gisborne Support Group.

The key benefits and purpose of the community connector role are as follows:

- building relationships based on trust
- creating a web of mutually supportive community relationships
- equipping local people to care for local people
- strengthening connection, purpose, motivation and a sense of belonging and
- being proactive, community-based and localised.



Ms. Jane Williams

However, the Korus Connect team was keen to understand how, and to what extent, the role of a community connector contributed to participants’ social wellbeing using independent research. To that end, the organisation commissioned Huber Social to work with key program representatives and participants to assess impacts.

The findings indicated the community connector program had a positive impact on participants’ social wellbeing, showing people who engaged with the community connector activities were found to be 41 percent less lonely or isolated. Further to this, people who are more engaged with the community connector’s activities also reflected 29 percent higher wellbeing as compared to the community average.

Korus Connect CEO, Dawn Penney, said organisational partnerships have been vital to the success of the local community connector initiative stating: “It is pleasing to undertake research demonstrating how the community connector initiative has imparted positive benefits to participants in the context of our local community. Meaningful connections generate positive, tangible and lasting impact regarding one’s sense of meaning, purpose, identity, as well as strengthening social cohesion in local communities.”

Submitted by Bronwyn Tacey

## World Day of Prayer 2023

St Andrew's Uniting Church at **Kyneton** is hosting a World Day of Prayer Service on Friday, 3rd March @ 10.30am, for the Kyneton Churches & community. The ecumenical service will be followed by refreshments and conversations. Take an opportunity to invite friends to participate in the service, or advise them of the service and the *World Day of Prayer 2023* information.

The country in focus in 2023 is Taiwan. The Order of Service for the World Day of Prayer 2023 has been prepared by Christian women in Taiwan who "would like to share their experiences with the congregation and bear witness to God's grace and mighty words."

Taiwan has a population of over 25M, mostly of Chinese heritage whose families had migrated from the Chinese mainland since the 17thC. More than half of the population are Chinese Buddhist. There are also small Muslim and Christian (4%) minorities. Taiwan was a colony of Japan for 50 years from 1895 but was returned to China after the defeat of Japan at the end of WW2. China views Taiwan as a Province of the Peoples Republic of China and operating within China's governance of "one country, two systems". However, there remains a view in Taiwan (and by some elsewhere) that Taiwan has its own sovereignty and constitutional status as the Republic of China.

For inquiries about the Kyneton World Day of Prayer 2023 Service you are invited to speak with Andrea Strack (5422 6647 or 0408 345 763).

In **Gisborne**, the World Day of Prayer is also being celebrated at the House of the Rock, on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am.

### COCO REPORT continued from page 3

There will be a Partnership service on 30th April with communion, and a forum is planned to be held after this service to discuss the pros and cons of streaming services.

If congregations decide not to take the streaming service on a particular Sunday, please let Neil Moorhouse know in advance, to help with his planning.

He has stressed the importance of the relevant IT people being at their church at least half an hour before the service, so that there is plenty of time to connect to the 'host' congregation.

Sustainability - CoCo needs Financial Reports from each congregation and each congregation was asked to re-assess their funding contributions to the Partnership.

Minister in Association - Thanks were given to Rev Deac Meg Evans for the continually cheerful support which she gives to Annette.

Updates were received from each congregation and included was A PLEA FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE WHITE GOOSE AT RIDDELLS CREEK, due to the long-term health issues of some of our regular volunteers. Please contact Meg or Lyn.

The next meeting is the AGM and will be held on 1st April at Kyneton



## Mount Church Packed for Ash Wednesday Commemoration

The Mount Macedon Uniting Church was overflowing for the Ash Wednesday 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration service on Thursday evening, 16 February 2023.

Rev D'Arcy Wood led a moving service that remembered the events and outcomes of that day, the outpouring of help and support from far and wide and the resilience of the community in recovering and rebuilding and continuing to grow. A number of people impacted on that day participated. A brief history of the Mount Macedon Uniting Church, which was destroyed then rebuilt to re-open in just 14 months, reflected the strength and resilience of the whole community. The church was shared with the Anglican congregation for 6 years until the Church of the Resurrection was completed. Rev Deacon Jeanne Beale, PPW Presbytery Minister, preached.

Over 80 people were present; including Rev Graham Hall, the minister at the time and driving force behind the recovery of the congregation and rebuilding of the church. A great many people wanted to talk to him. The mayor and other councilors, both Macedon and Mount Macedon CFA brigade captains and other CFA people as well as people from Bendigo, Romsey, the suburbs, Gisborne and locally.

Donations over \$660 to support the two local CFA brigades were received.

We are privileged to have been able to provide this opportunity to so many to remember and reflect on that day 40 years ago. We hope it brought comfort to anyone who still suffers as a result of their experiences. Neil Tweddle



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
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Church Council</u> Roy Gibbs, Helen Carey Chair – Pip Elston Sec – Helen Aldridge	<u>Congregation Secretary</u> Jenny Elston <u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs
<u>ROMSEY</u>	<u>Church Council/Elders</u> Noel Shaw      Jay Brooks Jeni Clampit      Jenny Elliott      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, Shirley Bowen
<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 &amp; C</u> - Glennis Speed <u>Pastoral Care/F &amp; C</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> – Nola Anderson <u>Worship &amp; 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

### **A reminder for Changes in Congregation Leadership details**

After each church has had its AGM – please let Robyn know of any changes so Partnership in Print can be updated as required.

**MINISTER LED SERVICES for March** Holy Communion will be held in all churches across the partnership on the first Sunday of March. Pastor Annette Buckley will lead Worship from the Northern Churches (location to be confirmed) and the service will be streamed to all other churches in the Partnership where communion will also be celebrated and served. Minister-led worship will be streamed from Tylden, Gisborne and Kyneton on other Sundays in March as below.

**Please note that the venue for 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March services will be confirmed when Annette returns from her annual leave on 27<sup>th</sup> February – Sutton Grange and Tylden are likely with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month.**

19<sup>th</sup> Gisborne  
26<sup>th</sup> Kyneton  
April: 2<sup>nd</sup> Romsey      Holy Communion

**Usual Weekly Sunday Service** times are as follows;

- Tylden is at 9.30am
- Gisborne is at 9.30am
- Romsey is at 9.30am
- Kyneton is at 9.30am on alternate Sundays
- Northern Churches usually at 10am preceded by morning tea at 9.30am

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.

<u>MINISTER</u> Pastor Annette Buckley Ph 5429 5351 or 0457 608 539 annettebuckley@ucaromsey.com	<u>MINISTER IN ASSOCIATION</u> Rev Deacon Meg Evans Ph 0439 492 245 marevans@bigpond.com
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<u>OFFICE PHONE</u> (03) 5428 6920	<u>OFFICE LOCATION AND POSTAL ADDRESS</u> 3 Sutherland Rd, Riddells Creek, 3431	<u>PARTNERSHIP EMAIL ADDRESS</u> macedon.ranges.partnership@hotmail.com
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**PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE** [www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au](http://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 <u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebdon St (PO Box 892)	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 Pip Elston, Lyn Ward, Helen Aldridge(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	Lauren Turner, Janet Cole, Dawn Hinneberg
<u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St					
<u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

What is going on in your congregation in April? What does worship mean to you? How is your faith growing at this time? Do you have an article for PiP or something you would like to share with the rest of the Partnership? Please send me your additions for PiP by **19<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

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

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