



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 70 OCTOBER 2021

THE SEASONS OF CREATION

series has given us plenty to reflect upon. The main theme has been *Oikos*, meaning home. We have considered the intricate web of connections which make up our global home. We have pondered God's wisdom and peace, as Jesus understood it, and offered some thoughts and reflections. We have prayed for creation and for one another, through lockdown and transition, through global unrest and local tempest. In a time of false starts and staged new freedoms, we have the opportunity to reflect upon the sort of church we want to be into the future.

In a lecture at the University of Ghana in February 2020, Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke about the coronavirus crisis. Linking it with the continuing environmental crisis, he observed that the virus does not read maps. Nor does the changing climate, nor the havoc it brings to millions of lives. They pay no attention to political boundaries. They treat the human race on equal terms. These crises remind us that we are an interconnected reality. In a most unwelcome way, the physical world is teaching us some theological truths, truths about God, and about ourselves. Can we listen? ¹
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Much information about weekly happenings in the Partnership comes through emails from Annette or Karen. If you don't have access to email or are missing these, please inform us so we can get a copy to you in some other way.

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	Colour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
3 Oct	Pent 19 (27)	G	Job 1:1; 2:1-10	26	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
10 Oct	Pent 20 (28)	G	Job 23:1-9,16-17	22:1-15	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mk 10:17-31
17 Oct	Pent 21 (29)	G	Job 38:1-7, (34-41)	104:1-9, 24, 35c	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
24 Oct	Pent 22 (30)	G	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	34:1-8, (19-22)	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
31 Oct	Pent 23 (31)	G	Ruth 1:1-18	146	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34
1 Nov	All Saints Day	W	Isaiah 25:6-9	24	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
7 Nov	Pent 24 (32)	G	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17	127	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44

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

COCO REPORT

CoCo met on 4th September by Zoom. The first item on the agenda was discussion about some changes to the Mission Study Report and concerns were raised about the description of some of the churches as being in 'remote areas'. It was felt that the more apt description was 'rural' as none of the MRP churches are in remote areas.

The signing and acceptance of the MOU for the Partnership will happen at the next Partnership Combined Service, which will be as soon as the Covid restrictions allow.

We talked about what we can do to serve the gospel in the community today and we are all finding this a challenge with Covid restrictions. Several suggestions and comments were made:

- We need to be listening for opportunities to support the community
- Education in the use of available resources for worship
- People without computers or computer skills are missing out
- Appropriate passages of scripture could be displayed on church noticeboards
- A new book by Rev Sally Douglas - The Church as Salt - was recommended for reading
- Frustration occurs when events are planned, then cannot happen because restrictions change.

A pilot project is being planned to test the use of Audio-Visual equipment, possibly between Gisborne and Kyneton. This will then give some guidance as to the equipment required for regular use of Audio-Visual communication between the churches around the Partnership.

The need for the implementation of the Essential Safety Measures that are required by Government legislation was discussed at length. The repairs being undertaken at Riddells Creek and Woodend will mean that they will have the appropriate documentation in place at the end of that process. All other church properties will need to start this process and it was recommended that we all try to have the initial step of an Occupancy Permit or a Maintenance Determination in place by the end of September. The services of Statcom - contractors recommended by Synod - can then be engaged to oversee the rest of the process across all the churches in the Macedon Ranges if required.

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(From page 1)

Scripture has much to teach us also. One of my favourite passages is the call of Abraham. It is a passage which gives voice to the urgings of Holy Mystery for us to enter into new places in new ways. The story tells of Abraham being called, being sent, and being a blessing.

Gen 12:1-4a NRSV

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Dare we listen to God's call upon our faith communities at this time? Dare we take steps into new territories? Dare we be a blessing to our communities and creation? The saying goes that the future is ours, but that is somewhat hubristic. The future is God's, and we have the opportunity to join in where the Spirit is leading. Blessings to all.

Karen and Annette

1. [The Call of Abraham: Blessings and Testings for the Church | World Council of Churches \(oikoumene.org\)](http://oikoumene.org)

A COLOURFUL GIFT

In 2006 I was given a beautiful gift which has been hanging on a wall in my study ever since. It is an icon of the Annunciation. It depicts the angel Gabriel giving the news to a startled Mary that she is to give birth to a baby boy.

The iconographer is Peter Blackwood, a friend of mine for many years. The first thing to stand out in this icon is the strong colours. In the tradition of icon painting (or "writing") the colours are symbolic: blue stands for divine light or divine presence; red is the colour of blood and earth and represents the incarnation; green indicates new life.

For Eastern Orthodox Christians, contemplating an icon is an act of prayer. In recent decades other Christians, Catholic and Protestant, have been learning that contemplating icons is a valuable spiritual exercise.

Peter Blackwood will bring icons with him to Gisborne for the 2021 Peter Barcham Lecture. Originally planned for 10th October, the new date is **Sunday 14th November at 2.30 p.m.** By the beginning of October, I'll be able to confirm this date with all our Partnership churches, also Mt Macedon and Lancefield, also the Catholic, Anglican, Church of Christ and Pentecostal congregations in Gisborne. Phone me if you would like further information. 5428-6700.



D'Arcy Wood

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	<h1>October 2021</h1> <p>Events may move online in case of ongoing lockdown</p>				1	2
10am Partnership Service					10am Prayers at Gisborne	Daylight Savings starts tonight – turn your clocks forward 1 hour
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am Tylden	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community				10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton (minister led)	10am GSC Chaplaincy Fundraiser Morning Tea
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9.30am Gisborne	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community	10am Muffin'n'More at Gisborne			10am Prayers at Gisborne	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9.30am Kyneton	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community			6.30pm Delightful Diners Malmsbury Hotel	10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton	PIP items due tomorrow!
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9am Romsey 10am Sutton Grange	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community 3.30pm RM Begg	10am Gisborne Contemporary Worship	10am Ministers Munch Redesdale			

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Woodend Faith Community is meeting weekly on Mondays at 2.30pm. Contact one of the ministry team to confirm current venue details if you wish to join. All are welcome. Further information available through ministry team emails.

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 8th & 22nd October at 6.30pm, also meeting via Zoom during lockdown – keep an eye on emails from the ministry team for further details.

Gisborne Midweek Worship on 26th October at 10am in the Church

Redesdale Ministers Munch (and worship) at the Redesdale General Store 10am Wednesday 27th October – all welcome

Other Worship times October 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: Mia Mia on 10th (lay-lead), Sutton Grange on 24th (minister-led) – preceded by morning tea at 9.45 when allowed
- 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.

31st October is a 5th Sunday and we plan for a Partnership service. Stay tuned to communications from the ministry team for further details closer to the date.

A note from a fridge:

To admit our weakness and our need to be healed, especially as we try to love each other and listen to each other is to begin to be healed. We need to be healed when we judge and criticize others. We need to be healed in our fears. But we are frightened to be rejected, frightened that others will not be able to accept us as we really are.

We must become conscious that we have fears, that we are weak and cowardly, that we are basically frightened of the demands of the Spirit on each of us, that we are frightened to get together to pray, to discipline ourselves so that we can grow.

For prayer is the opening of our being to the call of love, letting ourselves be opened to peace, to open ourselves to the reality of the world and of our Father, to enter into silence, to become conscious of love, to retreat from activity, to rest and have periods of quiet and in wonderment to give thanks.

What can we do?

1. We can yearn in prayer. We can try to pray with our hearts open, saying "Come!". And if we can't say "Come" with all our hearts at least maybe we can yearn truthfully to want to say "come".
2. We can share together, not hiding our weaknesses, but rather learning to say to one another, "I need you to pray for me, for I am in difficulty and cannot find my way". There is nothing more beautiful than sharing our weaknesses, now weeping and sullen, but with quiet humility.
3. Keep close to the littlest one, looking toward the most suffering one, the one who is companionless and wounded, the one who is a sign of God for us. This is the one who is the revelation of the essential weakness of us all.

Possibly from *Be Still and Listen* by Jean Vanier

The Bible in Australia: A Cultural History – Part 2 of a review by W Hebbard, continued from Partnership in Print Issue 68, August 2021 (Ed: I missed this in Issue 69 – I'm sure you noticed – here is the rest of the promised article from Wendy – with a reminder that the book and an audio edition are both available at the Goldfields Library)

In a culture wary of Bible bashers, the Arts are an important area where Australians continue to grapple with faith, doubt, morality and meaning. People are embarrassed about God. They're embarrassed by biblical images, imagery and angels and by ideas of redemption and salvation. But Tim Winton added, "I think fiction can explain things to people and render experiences of people and of God in a way that is sometimes superior to theology and sermons". Everything has its place in communicating the grace of God. Tim Winton's work "That Eye the Sky" and "Cloudstreet" are some examples. We also have the songwriters Paul Kelly and Nick Cave. A lot of songs have come from the Bible.

Some major ethical challenges facing contemporary Australians: refugees, homophobia and climate change, along with economic inequality, family violence, indigenous recognition and euthanasia. They are prominent moral issues. In this century, they go to the heart of the kind of society which the present generation is shaping. The bible has an ongoing, if inconclusive, role in the public consideration of some such matters. In many cases, the Bible is treated religiously. As the authoritative text for Christian Australians. But at the same time marriage laws, and women in the clergy. Issues that are currently very relevant.

Christian activism has always run in multiple directions. The Bible's implications for social and political life have always been contested. In fact, nearly two and half centuries after the bible's initial translation to Australia transmission. So, in Australia levels of biblical literacy. We asked how and what does the bible measure.

While Australia has changed a lot since the 1870s it is still true that good governance and a flourishing society require genuine wisdom. The time is for wise, robust, informed pluralism. In this context, the Bible remains relevant in Australian life and public conversation.

The bible has given rise to one of the world's major reservoirs of ethical reflection. It underpins a long and diverse tradition of thought on social, moral and political questions.

To conclude, while the church's own record has been very mixed and at times patently destructive, the Bible variously interpreted continues to appear in startling ways as a source of inspiration, power and practical wisdom.

POEM

Thankyou for giving me the key
To live my life more joyfully.
Thankyou, for showing me the way
To be more loving every day.
You taught me how to share a smile
With a kind friend once in a while.
Or even with a stranger, who
May need a little sunshine, too.

I saw a rainbow in the sky.
Involuntary came the cry—
"A rainbow .Look ! How lovely there."
The stranger thanked me for his share
Of colour on that wintry afternoon,
Quick flash of friendship in a smoke-filled room .
Surprise it was to me
That such a brief affinity
Was of some value to that person, who,
Perhaps is feeling as I do.
How can we show to those we meet
Life isn't sour ---- it's often very sweet.

Wendy Nott (1981)

GSC Chaplaincy Fundraiser

Saturday 9th October at 10am

Morning tea at the House of the Rock

Tickets \$25

Guest speaker Pastor Christie Buckingham

Contact Bronwyn Tacey 0417 028 605

(Coco report continued from Page 2)

Most people are finding lockdown worse this time around, and it is important that we continue to ring others to just have a chat. The Zoom 'after worship' chats provided by the Ministry Team were much appreciated as a way of keeping in touch and encouraging each other.

The repairs to the Riddells Creek church are almost complete, and are once again being slowed down by Covid.

Quotes for electrical work to be undertaken at Woodend were sent to Presbytery in August, and floorplans for the rest of the work in the Hall are to be finalised shortly.

A quote for the insulation for the Romsey Manse has been received and a second quote is being sought.

One day we will be able to meet together in person!

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

A quote from Friday night's Fish and Chips at Kyneton – one of many shared after we shared our own experiences of prayer in small groups as part of the worship:

“Praying and living deeply, richly and fully have become for me almost indistinguishable. Prayer is being present, sharing love, opening life to transcendence. It is not necessarily words addressed heavenward. Prayer is entering into the pain or joy of another person. Prayer is what I am doing when I love wastefully, passionately and wondrously and invite others to do so.”
John Shelby Spong

Photos on the front page:

Along with this month's reflection come some photos from Karen and Annette. Pictures can provide an opportunity for reflection and prayer as can words. What do you find in these images? Can you find inspiration for prayer in these photos?

Photos from top down, left to right:

1. Photo of a friend's artwork (from Annette – artist Robyn Rainford)
2. A path into the unknown (Annette Buckley)
3. Daffodils being picked from David's at Hesketh for a church service at Romsey (Noel Shaw)
4. A beach in New Zealand 2017 (Karen Eller)

James 5:13 (NIV) Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

What does prayer mean to you?

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, 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 24th October**. 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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