



## PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 55 JUNE 2020

### WE BEGIN ANEW

Rev Peter Cannon

Just the other weekend I attended Presbytery. When I write attended, I didn't attend in person, I attended by video streaming technology. It was the first time I had ever been in a video streamed meeting of that size. At one point there were 77 computers and telephones connected to the meeting. This represented well over 80 people attending the meeting. Up until a couple of months ago, I had rarely used any form of video streaming technology. For many this was their first experience of video streaming.

There were quite a few technical glitches during the meeting, particularly at the start. Videos were stilted, people had to remember to mute and unmute themselves, switching between leaders didn't always go smoothly and the sound didn't always work. Even at one point the system "crashed" and restarted.

With so many glitches you might think the meeting was a "disaster". That would mistake errors for failure.

People learnt together and grew. Those at the meeting were patient with the system, the experience and each other. As time went on, things improved and worked better. In the next large group "Zoom" meeting a couple of days later, led by the

same coordinators, things went a lot more smoothly.

I also learnt several things. Community singing does not work over "Zoom". Responsive prayers and worship responses need more time for people to join in – but not with all their voices heard. You can still chat to friends in the background without others knowing what you are saying! (The "chat" function became well used!) "Old wine into new wine skins" was a proverb that was suggested at one point and stimulated some reflection on my part.

One thing was clear, we were pushing our limits. Our personal limits. The limits of our technology. The limits of our understanding how to engage in a large group. We were in new territory.

Isn't that faith? A stepping forward into something new.

For we are in a time of incredible change. The last months have asked us all to live differently. Yet we are reminded we still need to continue to support each other in love. Questions are asked of us. How do we do this? How do we live faithfully? How do we care for each other? How do we sustain our faith? How do we grow in faith?

We are an Easter People. We are a Pentecost People. We are people of the Spirit.

(continued on page 3)

### GEORGE LEAVES THE KEYBOARD

George Fyfield has retired as the organist at Mount Macedon Uniting church after over 20 years of service. He became the regular organist in 2000 but had relieved for several years before too. George was always ready to suggest hymns or tunes to ministers and to tweak the pitch or pace to suit the congregation to assist the singers.

He also did many other tasks for the congregation but health issues have caught up.

In recognition of his dedicated service, George has been recognised as the Organist Emeritus, an honour given to a person who has retired but retains a professional title.

In thanking George for all his service, we remind him that the keyboard will always be ready if he gets the urge to tickle the ivories.



## LECTIONARY Readings Year A

### Ordinary Sundays after Pentecost

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

Date	Day/Season	Color	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
7 June	Trinity Sunday	W	Genesis 1:1 to 2:4a	8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
14 June	Pent 2 (11)	G	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)	116:1-2, 12-19	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35 to 10:8, (9-23)
21 June	Pent 3 (12)	G	Genesis 21:8-21	86:1-10, 16-17	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
22 June	UC Anniversary	R	Ex 37:15-28	122	Hebrews 13:1-8	John 17:20-26
28 June	Pent 4 (13)	G	Genesis 22:1-14	13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
5 July	Pent 5 (14)	G	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Colours: P – purple

W – white

G – green

R - Red

### AN APPEAL FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIAL

from Keith Hallet

I am engaged in writing a history of the Methodist Sunday School in Victoria. While I have received great materials and memories, I am anxious to relate educational philosophy with the aims and educational assumptions of the Sunday School movement. I have investigated from colonial beginnings to 1965. The material for the later period is available in the archives, but I cannot access it due to the pandemic.

So I am requesting if anyone has Sunday School materials from 1965 onwards, could they be loaned to me? Also, if anyone could loan me any source material especially exam papers, certificates and illustrations, I would really appreciate it and if permission was given, would include them in the study.

My address is 15 Howey St., Gisborne.

A message from Dawn Bamforth

**Cobaw Community Health** has places available in its Social Support Program for new participants. This is normally a bus outing service but during COVID 19, has changed its service, to assist clients through the current pandemic. Cobaw Social Support now offers the following opportunities for locals over 65: Regular phone catch-ups, information and updates, the opportunity to participate in and receive a monthly newsletter, socially distanced companion walks, face-to-face doorstep yarns and ad-hoc deliveries of hot and precooked meals for those requiring this type of assistance.

All you need to do to register, is: Request the specific service, i.e. **Cobaw Social Support**, through **My Aged Care** (online or over the phone - **1800 200 422**) and between ourselves and Macedon Ranges Shire Council's RAS team we can assess your needs and get you signed up for the program.

For further information, or to talk about the suitability of this service for your current circumstances and ongoing/future needs, please call Dawn on – **5421 1639**

(continued from page 1)

The early church was also in a time of dramatic change. Encounters with the resurrected one. A new hope in the God-with-us. Grace shared. Lives given a new way of living. The presence of the same Spirit who was in Jesus, now in each person. A new era. Uncertainty, but an exciting journey of faith. Stepping forward into the new.

When the Partnership was formed around 5 years ago, there was a vision of God doing something new among us. Hopes bloomed and dreams were germinated. We didn't know what to expect or even if we would like what we experienced. But what mattered was that we were stepping forward in the mission of God in our community.

It has meant change. It has not always been what we want. But in the midst, then as now, God is moving through the Spirit. We are again called forward in faith to find a new path. For our Partnership, as we reflect upon its journey and future, we too may ask as one person put it, "Are we going to want to go back or are we going to go forwards?"

As Covid-19 restrictions are also eased and we take tentative steps, we don't know what a post-Covid world will be like. Yes, there will be mistakes but also growth, learning and struggles. But in all, we can step forward in the Spirit of Jesus, known variously as the "Advocate" or the "Comforter".

**Project Protect** are a small group of ladies in Macedon Ranges that are making scrubs and doctor's gowns for small regional hospitals and doctor's surgeries that are having problems obtaining protective clothing for their staff.

We are needing sewers to help make doctor's gowns. These are simple to sew. All fabric etc will be supplied as we have had funding for this project. Gowns will be pre-cut.

Contactless pick up and drop off will be supplied.

If you would like to help us please contact Marg Tarrant via messenger Facebook or phone 0447772839.

I am located in Riddells Creek and attend Mt Macedon Uniting Church. From Barry Tarrant

**I've learned....** That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

**I've learned....** That when you're in love, it shows.

**I've learned ....** That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

**I've learned....** That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

**I've learned...** That being kind is more important than being right.

**I've learned....** That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

**I've learned....** That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

**I've learned....** That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

**I've learned....** That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

**I've learned....** That simple walks with my father around the block on summer

nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

**I've learned....** That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

**I've learned....** That money doesn't buy class.

**I've learned...** That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

**I've learned...** That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

**I've learned....** That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

**I've learned....** That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

**I've learned....** That love, not time, heals all wounds.

**I've learned....** That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

**I've learned....** That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

**I've learned....** That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

**I've learned....** That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

**I've learned....** That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

**I've learned....** That when you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

**I've learned....** That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

**I've learned....** That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

**I've learned....** That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

**I've learned....** That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, you're hooked for life.

**I've learned....** That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

**I've learned....** That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

## WHAT IS A MINISTER IN ASSOCIATION?

In our Partnership, we are fortunate to have a number of retired Ministers: Rev. Meg Evans (Deac.), Rev. Graham Hall, Rev. Ian Pearse, Rev. Lorraine Saultry and Rev. Dr. D'Arcy Wood. Only one of them, Meg, is a Minister in Association.

The Regulations of the Uniting Church [2.11.1.(a)] allow for the appointment of a Minister in Association in any given placement. This is to enable ordained Ministers to continue in Ministry in a way which is acknowledged by the Presbytery and placement, and which is not at odds with the Minister of the placement in which they live. Not all retired Ministers, or Ministers without Placement, automatically become Ministers in Association, but in our Partnership, Meg has been invited and has agreed to be in this position. This is what the Regulations say:

“Any Minister who is not in an approved placement in a Congregation(s) nor designated not available for placement may on the invitation of a Church Council and with the approval of the Presbytery become a Minister-in-Association to fulfil such pastoral, preaching or other responsibilities as may be agreed with the inducted Minister(s) prior to the approval by Presbytery.

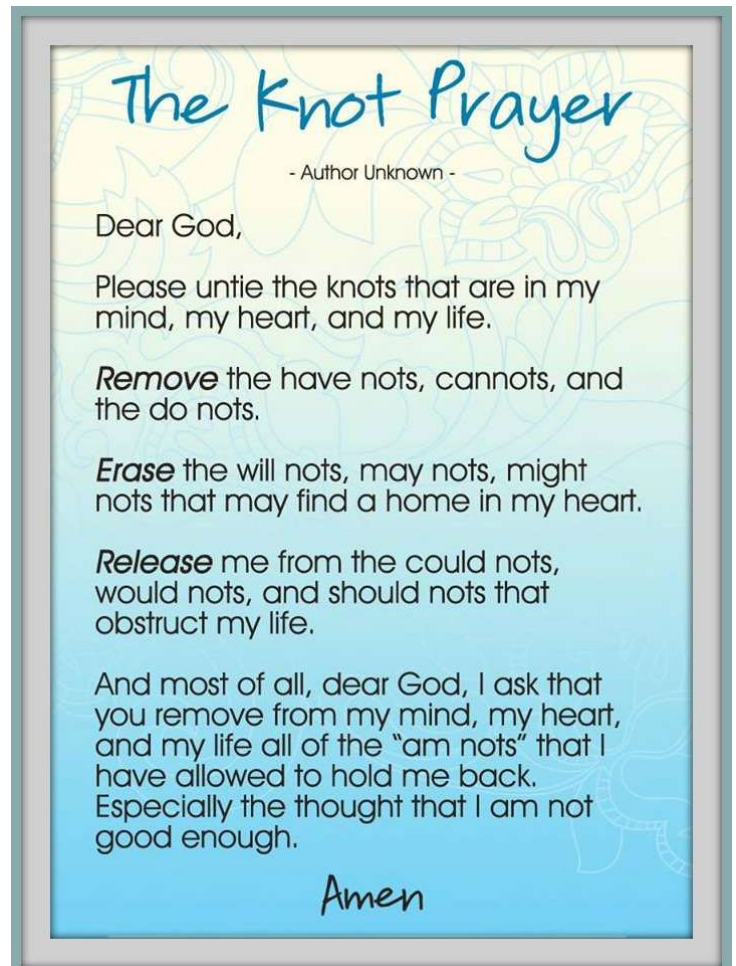
(b) The term of service of a Minister-in-Association shall be not more than two years. It may be renewed with the approval of the Presbytery.

(c) The term of service of a Minister-in-Association shall cease whenever there is a change of or within any placement in the Congregation or pastoral charge. A new invitation may be issued after the change in accordance with Regulation 2.11.1(a).

(d) The Church Council shall be responsible for determining any appropriate remuneration for a Minister-in-Association.”

It's a fairly bland description for what Meg actually contributes to the Partnership. Meg has taken on a large part of the responsibility for the running of the White Goose at Riddells Creek, and until recently, the community lunches at Woodend. During 'normal' times, Meg is at Woodend on most Mondays for worship and lunch, providing a welcoming, generous presence. Meg meets with the rest of the Team for worship and our weekly meeting most Wednesdays, and her experience in ministry (from tropical Cape York to icy Tassie!) has been invaluable in our work. Some of you will have seen Meg in our discussions during online worship, and the insight and wisdom she has shown there are just a small part of what she brings to the team. Meg's work as a Deacon ensure that she is constantly aware of those on the margins and beyond, and her prior work as a teacher means that she is great at correcting our grammar and spelling when we get it wrong! Meg has an enormous capacity to care for people, and she does that faithfully and well, making phone calls and sometimes in person on behalf of the Team. Those 'Pastoral Care Survival Kits' that were handed out when we were first locked down? Meg instigated those and played a large part in putting them together and distributing them. Meg leads worship sometimes when other Team members are not available, whether in an emergency or planned in advance.

Meg is passionate about the Partnership, and she wants to see it succeed. Sometimes I'm sure she 'works' more hours than paid ministers in her hope to see that happen. When you pray for the Ministry Team, please include Meg in your prayers. She is a treasured member of the Ministry Team.



# Blessing of the Teapots at Curly Flat

A couple of weeks ago, (Tuesday 28th April) was the day of the Blessing of the Teapots in Leunig's Curly Flat. Annette and Meg (being the possessors of many teapots) went searching the Macedon Ranges and found our own Curly Flat where they managed to bless just a few teapots!

They even found more at Riddell!!!



Teapots remind us of brewing up a good pot of tea and sharing it with family and friends, acquaintances and strangers.

We invite you today to think of those you might normally share a cuppa with, or those you would like to share a cuppa with and pray for/with them, as family, friends and those you meet just occasionally or those you may just share with once.

Celebrate your teapots and a good brew-up as you think of others in prayer.

Dear God, We rejoice and give thanks for earthworms, bees, ladybirds and broody hens;  
for humans tending their gardens, talking to animals, cleaning their homes and singing to themselves;  
for the rising of the sap, the fragrance of growth, the invention of the wheelbarrow and the existence of the teapot, we give thanks.  
We celebrate and give thanks.  
Amen.

(Copyright Michael Leunig 1991 in The Prayer Tree)



### Mia Mia-Kyneton News

The postponed AGM of the Church Council of the Uniting Churches of Mia Mia-Kyneton was convened on 20th May via zoom video conferencing. The Church Council was grateful for Pastor Annette's chairing of the Annual General Meeting and her leadership in convening and hosting the zoom video conference.

Philip (Pip) Elston was elected Chairperson of the Church Council. Joan Mills will continue on the Church Council (as an elected Elder/Church Councillor) but with a need to devote her time to other aspects of church work. Joan is now, inter alia, the Chair of the Kyneton Opportunity Shop Committee. Appreciation was extended to Joan for her long time Church Council service, including as chair & property convenor, her work for fundraising projects, her counsel on OpShop matters, her role in the convening of the 2019 Kyneton property information forum, and her initiative and team leadership in coordinating arrangements for the funding and installation of the Kyneton Church kitchenette.

### Mount Macedon News:

Mount Macedon congregation plans to recommence activities in June. At this stage, the **Men's Group** will meet again on the usual first Tuesday, **2 June**. As the latest indication is that Step 2 reduction of restrictions, allowing 20 people to meet, will occur on 1 June, Sunday worship hopefully will recommence on 7 June and **The Thistle Club** on the last Wednesday, **27 June**. All these plans are tentative as they are dependent on continuing progress with control and containment of the disease and easing of the restrictions. However, the Leadership Team is developing the arrangements towards this plan.

### Online Worship Services

Video streaming is proving to be a wonderful boon to help people overcome their isolation and remain connected. The ministry team are available to assist you in staying connected to your church family. Please contact the minister who is available at the time that suits you, so that you can be given the appropriate link to participate.

Annette: Fridays at 11am

Peter: Mondays at 4.30 p.m.

Linda: Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Keep in mind also that Annette is running an online conversation most Sundays at 10.30am. Some Partnership members have been watching the service at 9.30am on Sunday, then joining Annette in conversation afterwards at 10.30am. Contact Annette if you would like to participate.

### Zooming and UFF

My family and I belong to the **Uniting Faith and Families** community, which originated in the Synod Family Camp at Adekate. Since Camp in March we have been staying in touch and supporting our community via means other than face-to-face. One Saturday a month we have gathered – together but separated over 'brunch'. Each family, around their own table (with food and drink) has joined together via Zoom. This has been an enjoyable time to catch up with church families from across the state, sharing a bit about our weeks, our faith through the time of Easter and how we're coping with the changes to 'normal' life. We have been challenged and supported through this way of meeting and in many ways feel more connected now than we have in previous years.

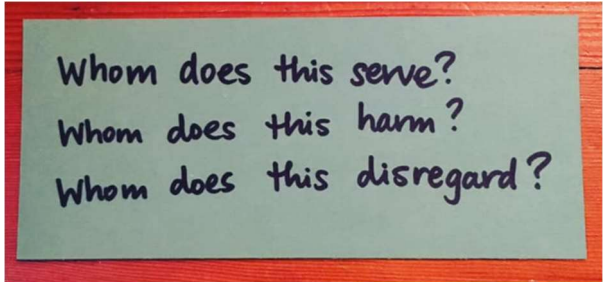
Meeting via Zoom has its limits. Each time we meet, things do get a little easier. Here in the Macedon Ranges, as our congregations are largely in the 'at risk' group, maybe we could look at meeting via zoom or similar platforms instead of simply waiting until we are allowed to meet in large groups again. For example, we could do fish'n'chips and meet fortnightly in our own homes for Kyneton's Friday night service. As we can have up to 5 people visit our homes – maybe you can find a friend who can join you to zoom... ☺

Robyn Z

### A reflection from 'Krug The Thinker'

(American writer and mom)

"I heard about the order to reopen houses of worship. I'm sure you did too. And this is what I want to offer in response. These are three questions That I ask myself about pretty much everything.



Whom does this serve?  
Whom does this harm?  
Whom does this disregard?

I ask these questions about executive orders and legislation and municipal policies and our most deeply ingrained traditions and practices. The answers are so illuminating, lifting up the veil on the motivations of those in power, those who seek to gain it, and those who seek to preserve it. And lifting up the veil on the suffering of those who are left out or cast aside. Sometimes it's that last question that's the most important.

I always hold the answers to these questions up to the light that is the love of God, which reminds me whom I am called to serve (everyone) and whom I am called to harm or disregard (absolutely no one). Wherever you find yourself this Sunday, let's ask these questions together. And let's hold them up to the light. Amen."



### Next Partnership in Print

No calendar this issue but it does seem things may be up and running again next month (July).

**If you do have** stories, dates, meetings, photos or something to share – please send them to me **by 21<sup>st</sup> June** for the next edition of PiP. I am happy to receive emails or texts via phone and I even look in my letterbox daily!

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

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N - Northern, SG - Sutton Grange, B - Barfold, MM - Mia Mia, M - Metcalfe, K - Kyneton, L - Lancefield, R - Romsey,  
T - Tylden, W - Woodend, MtM - Mount Macedon, RC - Riddells Creek, G - Gisborne, P - Presbytery

# Address label

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

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**PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE** [www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au](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	Doug McIver miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<u>Finance Committee</u> Helen Carey (Treas) Roy Gibbs Jenny Elston	Church Council Executive	Marge Townrow Dot Smith
					Helen Aldridge, Pip Elston
<u>LANCEFIELD</u> - 9 High St	Rita Vandervalk	Ian Kennedy	Peter Fraser		Ian Kennedy, Rita Vandervalk
<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>MT MACEDON</u> - 682 Mt Macedon Rd	Neil Tweddle	Fiona Armour	Lyn Almond		David Liebich, Neil Tweddle, Anne Fyfield (alt)
<u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

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