



## PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 62 FEBRUARY 2021

### RUNNING THE RACE

All being well, by the time you read this, I will have completed my 50<sup>th</sup> Parkrun 5km event. This means I'll be eligible for a free t shirt (although I have to pay for its postage from England!) and maybe some bragging rights.

If you'd told me 3 years ago I'd be writing that first line, I would have laughed at you in disbelief. I'd never really liked running, apart from in very short bursts around a netball court, and had no intention of starting. I *did* want to lose some weight, and I quite like walking, so that was going to be the exercise part of my strategy.

It turned out, though, that walking only got me so far. When things plateaued, my physio daughter helpfully said that I needed some "huff and puff in there, Mum" so I feebly started jogging a tiny, tiny bit. I would walk until I decided no-one was around to see me, and I couldn't leave it any longer, then go as far as I could while still breathing (about 10 metres) and then walk for another 500m until I stopped wheezing like an old smoker. Wendy Elson used to talk about coming up with creative ideas while she was out running. All that was going through my head was "Don't die, don't die, don't die!" Gradually, though, I found that I could go a bit further than 10 metres, then a bit more, then a bit more. Finally I got to a point where I could string together all those shorter bits into one, longer run. I even managed to come up with some thoughts that weren't just about my own mortality.

Parkrun had started in Lancefield by this time, someone having decided that Lancefield Park is the perfect spot to be at 8.00 am on a Saturday morning in winter, dressed in shorts and a t shirt. Parkrun is a

global organisation of free, weekly, timed 5km runs or walks, organised completely by volunteers. Each week, half a dozen local people run the event, mostly participants taking it in turns to volunteer. There are regional, state and national and international volunteers co-ordinating things as well – a huge army of good-hearted people. It is inclusive of everyone, of every age and ability. It's not a competition, just a way for people to walk or run with others in a local park at a particular time every week. Each week, half a dozen local people run the event, mostly participants taking it in turns to volunteer. There are regional, state, national and international volunteers co-ordinating (continued page 3)

#### Woodend Faith Community

A small group has been exploring what it means to be a Faith Community at St Andrew's in Woodend. This will continue to evolve but what has started is an informal worship time at 2.30pm on Mondays (previously known as Prayers for Peace – a new name yet to be decided on). We look forward to the time when we can again provide and share lunch in a COVID safe way. All are welcome to join in this informal time of prayer, worship and sharing.



The setting for our 'empty plate' communion service in Woodend one Monday in December.

## LECTIONARY Readings Year B

### After Epiphany

A period in which the church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. On the last Sunday, we hear the readings for the Transfiguration of the Lord. The length of this period varies depending on the date of Easter.

Date	Day/Season	Color	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
7 Feb	Epiphany 5	G	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
14 Feb	Transfiguration of Jesus	W	2 Kings 2:1-12	50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9

### 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. The 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.

17 Feb	Ash Wednesday	P	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
21 Feb	Lent 1	P	Genesis 9:8-17	25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
28 Feb	Lent 2	P	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9
7 Mar	Lent 3	P	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R - Red



## A Journey to the Mountain. Part 2

(An adventure from Brian Lauder)

**Exodus 33:14** *And he said, my presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest.*

Armed with the knowledge that he will be with me as I seek his face, he will maketh me lie down in green pastures and he will indeed give me rest, I set up camp at St. Arnaud, where I have been on several missions before, but on this occasion the camp is barren, the people are few, the streets are deserted and the Sunday morning worship is cancelled. The people that there are, wear masks, they move quickly as they walk, heads down and live with an air of silent apprehension, there is no party, there is no drinking, there is no false God there is just, it appears, simply more isolation.

Saturday morning dawns bright and fine with Spring sunshine to lead as I set forth to climb the mountain, yet I realise that before I can climb the mountain, I need to find one, good grief! I am without any concept of direction so I quietly depart base camp and rely entirely on my God to guide me... And guide me he does, to the petrol station, as we need fuel... Good thinking Lord, we won't get far if we don't got no petrol, and in doing so I speak with the attendant, a craggy faced, cheery, chatty gentleman who is happy in his mission, who advises me (continued page 5)



Brian's Base Camp

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(from page 1) things as well – a huge army of good-hearted people. It is inclusive of everyone, of every age and ability. It's not a competition, just a way for people to walk or run with others in a local park at a particular time every week.

I edged towards my 50<sup>th</sup> Parkrun milestone at the end of 2019, looking forward to the big day in the new year. Of course, COVID stepped in and, as with so many things, somewhat altered my plans. When we started back two weeks ago I had completed 47 Parkrun events, so now here I am, sitting on 49. Usually there would be a celebration for a 'milestone' but again, COVID, so I'll just have to be happy with the warm inner glow of achievement. And the t shirt, eventually.

It's funny, isn't it, how we can find ourselves at a point we never envisaged for ourselves – for good or ill. Sometimes that happens because of external events, and sometimes it's from the choices we make and the steps we take, or even a combination of both. Often the prevailing wisdom is that you just have to set a goal, work out the steps towards achieving that goal, and take them one by one. That works for many people and many situations. You may not be completely surprised to find that it is not often how things work for me. More often I find it's just the long, slow, putting one foot in front of the other, doing the next right thing that leads to a point where I look over my shoulder and think "Wow! I never imagined I'd find myself here!"

Completing my 50<sup>th</sup> Parkrun will be a nice achievement on Saturday, but I know it hasn't happened without those first stumbling steps taken a couple of years ago, without the first run, and the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the 37<sup>th</sup>, without a good number of faithful people standing in the rain or the heat recording times and handing out finish tokens. It hasn't happened without literally stepping completely outside my comfort zone. It hasn't happened without some degree of pain and exhaustion, or wondering whether I really was fooling myself in thinking that running 5 km was something I might be able to do.

Here we are, good and faithful people of the Macedon Ranges Partnership, near the beginning of 2021. Let's commit ourselves to the small steps we can take together this year to just do "the next right thing". Let's be prepared to stumble around, feel exhausted, experience pain, step outside our comfort zone, doubt our capacity and abilities. Let's look for the good-hearted people among us and beyond who will show up, encourage us, help us along, be part of the journey. Let's remember to be grateful for them and all they do, as well as for the signs we see of God's presence with us. Let's find ways to include everyone. Let's celebrate the achievements! In all of this, let's understand that we do actually have a goal, we are, in some of those wonderful words from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church "a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal" Let's hope and pray that, when we look back over our shoulders in December 2021 we can say with wonder and joy "Wow! We never imagined we'd find ourselves here!"

*"Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.*

*So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.*

*Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal." Philippians 3:13-19 The Message*

grace & peace,

Annette Buckley

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	2.30pm Faith Community Woodend		1.30pm Romsey Church Council	11am Zoom AB	10am Prayers at Gisborne	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Epiphany	2.30pm Faith Community Woodend		7.30pm Gisborne Church Council	11am Zoom AB	10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish'n'Chips Worship at Kyneton	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Transfiguration of Jesus	2.30pm Faith Community Woodend		Ash Wednesday	11am Zoom AB	10am Prayers at Gisborne	PIP items due tomorrow!
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Lent 1	1.30pm RM Begg Worship 2.30pm Faith Community Woodend		10am Ministers munch Redesdale	11am Zoom AB	10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish'n'Chips Worship at Kyneton	
28	<h1>February 2021</h1>					
Lent 2						

## God Whispers

The man whispered,  
God speak to me  
And a meadowlark sang  
But the man did not hear.

The man whispered  
God speak to me  
And the thunder rolled across the sky  
But the man did not hear.

The man looked around and said,  
God help me to see you  
And the sun shone brightly  
But the man did not see.

And the man shouted,  
God show me a miracle.  
And a life was born  
But the man did not notice.

So the man cried out in despair  
Touch me God and let me know you are here  
Whereupon God reached down and touched the man  
And the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

The man cried, God I need your help.  
And an email arrived reaching out with good news and encouragement.  
But the man deleted it and continued crying.

(I find this to be a great reminder that God is always around us in the little and simple ways that we take for granted. Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the way that we expect!).  
...shared from the Gisborne UC Newsletter (thanks Maree! ed)

## A Journey to the Mountain (continued from page 2) to head south to the Grampians....

A messenger from God giving me direction.... I've been given the good news.

Without reason or comprehension, or explanation, I completely ignored this messenger's direction and head north? Why, did I ignore the messenger's advice?



Travelling North, I find endless flat plains, small hills, hillocks, burroughs and cropping fields, dips and petite chasms, not a mountain to be seen, the road continues in front of me unabated, without known direction, wind farm turbines rotate gently in the stiffening late morning breeze. I pull over and rest, and say a small prayer, I make contact with our editor Robyn, she replies that God is with me and he will guide me. Trust in our Lord she ministers, I take heart from her words. I take photos and with renewed faith I prepare to remount and continue.....

Disaster befalls my mission yet again, in abundance, at once, in a singular stroke I have a tyre going flat, I reach for my coffee and it is all gone, I have eaten my sandwich, I have forgotten to fill my water bottle and I am down to my last cigarette. What else can go wrong.? I am without food; water is low and direction is now limited by the pressure in my tyre. I look around for my bagman and recall that I don't have a bagman, only a master Dummy would wait for a bagman that doesn't exist. So I sit down by the side of the dusty road and look up and smile at God, and in my prayer to Him he helps me realise why he sent me in the opposite direction to his messengers advice.

Entirely now isolated, alone and becoming desolated I trust in God and his love for me and his guidance to lead me to greener pastures, he will give me rest and he is with me now very close... He is closer now than I have felt his presence for quite some time. And we smile together and together we remount and continue and he thanks me for trusting, and he promises to lead me.

And he does, within a very short time, we find the bitumen.



Thanks for your story Brian! Stay tuned folks, there may even be a part 3 on its way!

## MEETINGS

**Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> February** **Romsey Church Council** is meeting for the first time since March 2020 in the meeting room at 1.30pm (please note the change in time from night meetings and the venue may change)

**Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> February** **Gisborne Church Council** in the church at 7.30pm

**Thursdays 11am** Not really a meeting but **Annette** is available for zoom chat. Please contact her for details

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

**Woodend Faith Community** is meeting at 2.30pm behind the Woodend church under the trees (weather permitting – otherwise in the church)

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month – this month on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm

**RM Begg Worship** All welcome to join on the 4th Monday of each month at 3.30 pm, this month on 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Other Worship times** These times may change depending on the week and potential COVID restrictions. Usual service times for churches across the partnership currently are:

- Tylden is at 9am
- Romsey is at 9am
- Gisborne is at 9:30am
- Mt Macedon is at 10:30am
- Lancefield is at 10:45am

## OTHER GATHERINGS

**Wed. 24<sup>th</sup> February** A gathering of Northern UC folk "Ministers Munch" at the Café Budburst in Redesdale at 10am 'a different way of doing church'. Come and share in a coffee or tea (they do a great Chai latte!), in conversation, and reflection on the month.

**After Church Zoom** There is interest to continue the practise of meeting via Zoom weekly... some have enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with people each week, often after watching the video service from the MRUCP. This provides a springboard for conversation and allowing further exploration for worship ideas. Keep in touch with ongoing plans for this via the regular ministry email or in your next edition of PiP.

### A message from Chaplaincy

(at Gisborne Secondary College)

Please note that our old Chaplaincy account has been closed as we had to open a new account to change our name.

The name of the new account with Bendigo Bank is Gisborne Korus Connect Chaplaincy, BSB 633 000, and Account number 179 831 797.

We were unsuccessful in getting the \$20,000 Federal funding for this year which is extremely disappointing. The School have advised that they can't increase their funding so it remains at \$8,000 again for this year. Therefore our amount to raise with the School's \$8,000 taken out is \$73,000. We will receive a 50% discount from Korus Connect for term 1 this year so that should be approx. \$8,000 which leaves us \$65,000 to raise.

We look forward to your ongoing support.

Thank you. Bronwyn Tacey



Address label

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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 Ebden 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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