



# PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 95 FEBRUARY 2024

## WHAT SHALL WE RENDER...?

This morning, the radio station I listen to as I wake up had a question for listeners to respond to: "Where have you taken your pillow?" It's a bit of fluff, the kind of thing they do each morning, asking questions that sometimes lead to answers that shed fascinating light on the wide variety of ways that we humans think and behave, and on people's life experiences. The show has a main presenter, a sidekick and a newsreader. The newsreader said that she takes her pillow when she travels, but never interstate. She just won't take it over the border, for reasons she couldn't fully explain! It was interesting to hear how attached to their pillows some people are...carting them on international flights, giving up precious space for clothes or other things in their suitcases, or risking relationships with people who didn't 'get it'.



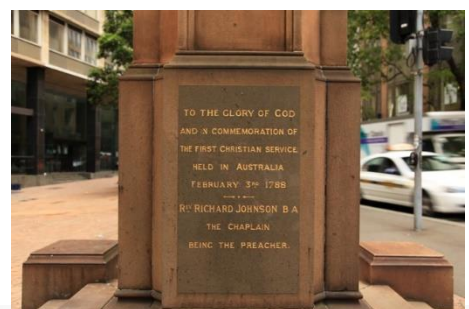
Later this morning, my daily email from the ABC arrived with a link to the story of a day in the life of a twelve year-old Gazan girl, which had been shown last night. In it, Hiba Abu Sadeq's poignant face stared out, eyes far, far older than the number of birthdays she's had. Her story tells of her living in a modern tower complex until it was destroyed by two Israeli missiles. She has lost her home, school, friends, all of her life as she knew it. She now spends her time hunting for water and food, with "only the wind" as a playmate. Her home is a tent in a refugee camp, with no toilets or showers. Her family eats only once a day, living off whatever food they can find in the almost empty stores. They share this situation with thousands of others. Hiba says, "There is a queue for everything now. Water, falafel, even for death, you wait in line."



During Sunday worship, we watched a video that allowed us to eavesdrop on a conversation between Common Grace Director Gershon Nimbalker and their First Nations leaders Bianca Manning and Safina Stewart, along with Uncle Dr Pastor Ray Minniecon. As a gift for churches for the



Sunday before the 26<sup>th</sup> January, they were reflecting on the monument in Sydney to the first Christian service of worship conducted on this land, and the text from Psalm 116:12 inscribed on it - *What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?* They wondered together how that question might continue to offer insights to Australian Christians, how it might challenge us to consider our response to God's goodness and generosity. Of course, the people originally



(Continued on page 3)

photo credits on page 2

## LECTIONARY Readings Year B

### Epiphany

An 'Epiphany' is a revealing, appearing or manifesting of something or someone, and in this season the church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. The length of this period varies depending on the date of Easter.

Date	Day/Season	Col.	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
28 Jan	Epiphany 4	G	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
2 Feb	Presentation of the Lord	G	Malachi 3:1-4	84 or 24:7-10	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
4 Feb	Epiphany 5	G	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
11 Feb	Transfiguration Sunday	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.

14 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
18 Feb	Lent 1	P	Genesis 9:8-17	25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
25 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
3 Mar	Lent 3	P	Exodus 20:1-17	19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

Photos on page 1 clockwise from top right:

1. taken in Gaza Photo by Mohammed Ibrahim on Unsplash
- 2.&3. 2 images from the Richard Johnson Obelisk - photo from City of Sydney. More detail and information can be found here: <https://www.cityartsydney.com.au/artwork/richard-johnson-obelisk/>
4. From the Common Grace resources - Gershon Nimbalker, Bianca Manning, Safina Stewart and Uncle Dr Pastor Ray Minniecon

On January 26 1938, Aboriginal leaders including William Cooper, met for a Day of Mourning, seeking equality and full citizenship (though it would take another 30 years). The Australian Churches were then asked to set aside the Sunday before January 26 as Aboriginal Sunday (previously called Aborigines' Day), a day for Christians to act in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples and the injustices being experienced. The first Aboriginal Sunday is suggested as occurring in 1941, although was referenced in a letter from William Cooper to the John McEwen, Minister for the Interior written on 19 January 1938 and also referenced in the Herald (Melbourne) newspaper on 18 January 1939.



Exciting news from the Refugee Family Support Group Woodend: with gratitude to the Gisborne congregation, the Tylden/Woodend Op Shop and other supporters – we have raised nearly half our estimated budget and are nearly ready to be matched with a family. We do have a new name however – **Woodend Refugee Resettlement**. Our next fundraiser is an open garden on 17<sup>th</sup> March at Stonehill, North Woodend

(from page 1) originally addressed by the sermon on this text might have found deep irony in the idea that God had rendered them any benefits. Many convicts were more the victims of crippling poverty rather than hardened criminals, sentenced for thefts of tea, handkerchiefs, clothing and bedding. Together with their jailers, they were transported to the other side of the world, to a land vastly different from the one they'd left behind, likely never to see loved ones again. It would have been an extremely optimistic person who could see the benefits they'd received on that hot February morning on Gadigal country impaled by a British flag.

Things are different now, though. Here we are, most of us able to have comical conversations about our preferences for the things that bring us comfort. Almost none of us have ever needed to send our twelve year-old daughters out each day in search of water. We might be able to believe that God has blessed us by not placing us in Gaza, and give thanks that we live in such a peaceful country. It's not the whole story of course: light and dark exist in every life, and external appearances can be deceiving. Despite the grinding poverty and hardships of her life, Hiba finds space and time (and somehow the energy) to play. And we, in the midst of our generally materially comfortable lives can still face tragedy and despair.

It was a remarkable conversation, and an inspired idea, I thought, for a reflection for the first Australia Day after the referendum on the First Nations Voice to Parliament. I had no idea that this monument existed, but there it sits, on the corner of Bligh and Hunter Streets in Sydney. It's interesting to see what the Psalmist has laid out as the Lord's benefits in the prior verses to the one quoted: God hears, God protects and saves, God vindicates, God delivers souls from death, eyes from tears, feet from stumbling. In response to their own question, the Psalmist says they will celebrate deliverance, call on God, fulfil their vows to God before all people (twice!), declare themselves God's servant and make an offering of thanks. What might that look like in our world? It made me wonder how we, as followers of the One who "has nowhere to rest his head" live faithfully in these days. How might we declare ourselves God's servants and join with God in the work of deliverance, protection and vindication? How might we make meaningful celebration and fulfil our vows to God with thankfulness?

I wonder if these words can continue to challenge and inspire us in the Partnership throughout this year and beyond, as Uncle Ray, Safina, Bianca and Gershon hope, if they can form a question that inspires us to action as Australian Christians: What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards us? I'd love to hear your responses!

Annette Buckley  
February 2024

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The Sunday before 26<sup>th</sup> Jan is Aboriginal Sunday. In Kyneton, Pip led the service using resources provided by Assembly and Common Grace.

The artefacts pictured (here and on page 6) were given to John Barry Thomson, the great, great grandfather of Jenny Elston and the son of James Thomson, the stonemason who designed the Kyneton Uniting Church building. The paragraph below is copied from the family history book Jan Telford compiled in about 2005 "From Aberdeenshire to Balkebah"

John Barry Thomson spent his early years at Avoca with his family. They had trekked from Sydney to Queanbeyan before coming overland to Avoca Station on the Avoca River. On the way they passed through Kyneton and camped one night in a hut on "Darlington".

One old resident of Kyneton was H Smith of Chalk Farm near Boggy Creek; he saw the 'John Barry' sailing ship leaving Dundee with a load of tradesmen. H Smith lived to see the infant J.B Thomson (who was born



(Continued on page 6)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2024</h1> <p>First 3 Sundays this month, worship will be streamed from the following churches; (there is no streaming on the last Sunday of the month)</p>				1	2	3
					<b>Presentation of the Lord</b> <b>10am</b> Prayers at Gisborne	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Epiphany 5</b> <b>9.30am</b> Communion streamed from Northern churches	Woodend Faith Community <b>12.30</b> Souper Lunch		<b>9.30-1pm</b> White Goose open Riddells Creek		<b>10am</b> Prayers at Gisborne <b>6.30pm</b> Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Transfiguration</b> <b>9.30am</b> Streamed from Tylden	Faith Community <b>12.30</b> Souper Lunch	<b>10am</b> Muffin Morning Gisborne	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>9.30-1pm</b> White Goose open Riddells Creek		<b>10am</b> Prayers at Gisborne <b>7pm</b> Simba Sessions	<b>*PiP articles due tomorrow please</b>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>Lent 1</b> <b>9.30am</b> Streamed from Gisborne	<b>11am</b> Faith Community <b>12.30</b> Souper Lunch	<b>10am</b> Ministers Munch tbc	<b>9.30-1pm</b> White Goose open Riddells Creek		<b>10am</b> Prayers at Gisborne <b>6.30pm</b> Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
25	26	27	28	29	1 March	2 March
<b>Lent 2</b> <b>9.30am</b> Kyneton (minister-led) no streaming	<b>11am</b> Faith Community <b>12.30</b> Souper Lunch	<b>10am</b> Worship at Gisborne				

# Quiet Day

A time of self-care and nurture, as we come together for reflection and contemplation, stepping aside from our busy-ness, to be present with God



Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> of February, 10am - 3pm  
at 'Dromkeen'

1012 Kilmore Road, Riddells Creek

Lunch, tea/coffee and light snacks will be provided.  
(Please let us know of any special dietary requirements)

**We would appreciate a small donation (on the day) to assist with costs.**

For further information (or if you need transport):  
Barbara Ashley 0410 439 724, or  
Jill Gray 0400 236 122

**Please let Barb or Jill know if you and/or a friend plan to attend.**

Who have you been and who are you now?  
Where has your heart traveled?  
Who have you loved and what have you lost?  
What have you bought and what was the cost?

Supported by St Andrews Uniting Church, Sunbury

**Peter Barcham Lecture: "Christian but not Spiritual?"** *Christian Discipleship in an age of Spirituality*  
It is common to hear people say, "I'm spiritual but not religious". There are good and understandable reasons for this claim to be made. It reflects a discomfort with the general idea of religion and with all the flaws associated with particular religions. On the other hand, it indicates an attraction to the idea of spirituality – even in this secular age. But what exactly is "spirituality" and how does Christianity relate to it? And what exactly is "Christianity" and how might spirituality relate to it? This lecture will explore these questions and the challenges which the contemporary interest in spirituality puts to the disciples of Jesus.

**Gisborne Uniting Church**  
warmly invites you to attend the  
**14th Annual Peter Barcham lecture**

Christian  
but not  
Spiritual?

Explore the role of Christian Discipleship  
in an age of Spirituality

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Geoff Thompson  
Assoc. Prof. Pilgrim College, University of Divinity  
Gisborne Uniting Church, 23 Brantome St  
Monday 4th March, 2024 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
Light supper to follow

on board the ship while it was waiting for favourable weather to set sail from Dundee) years afterwards in Kyneton, and knew his father, James (a stonemason).

John Barry did not like the building profession, so opened a butcher's shop in 1856, in Epping Street, Kyneton next to their family home. He also dealt extensively in stock.

*John Barry had made friends with the Avoca tribe of aboriginals who taught him bushcraft and to swim. They carried him out on their backs into the river. They loved him so much that in the early 1860's they visited him in Kyneton. When they arrived it alarmed the residents, but when they found that the aboriginals had only come to visit their friend John Barry Thomson, the residents relaxed and enjoyed spear and boomerang throwing by day and corroborees by night. The tribe camped in Market Street and during the corroborees the males danced furiously and excitedly round the great fire and the lubras beat time. In all five corroborees were performed in honour of John Barry. It was an exciting time for everyone concerned and probably the only time on record that blacks travelled in a tribe to see a white man and the last time that the tribe came south of the Murray. Another coincidence was that one of Mr. Thomson's daughters, Mrs. Jas. Anderson, afterwards lived on the spot where the natives so honoured her father.* Ref: History of Kyneton, Vol 2, Pg 146



## GISBORNE NEWS

**Guess who's coming to the Muffin Morning?** Well, it depends on who you invite. Among the many hundreds of named people in Scripture which 3 would you most want to meet? Perhaps John the Baptist for whom you could bake honey muffins or ask David to bring his harp to provide soft music? Bring your list to the church on Tuesday February 13 from 10am to 12 noon.

Pre Covid, our Gisborne congregation enjoyed what we called our **Friends' lunches** on a Friday monthly. We would now like to reintroduce these with an open invitation for anyone in the Partnership to join with us. This will be another great opportunity to socialize on an informal basis and to enjoy a meal together. Our lunch will be at the Vic Hotel in Gisborne at 12pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

We would ask, until we get our lunches going, that you let Bev Gilbertson (0451 547 604) or Maree Clarke (0423 051 318) know if you intend coming, preferably by Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. We look forward to seeing you!

## ROMSEY NEWS

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Streamed Worship & Communion Service at 9.30am

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Church Council 1.30pm

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Worship Service conducted by Trevor Turnham 9.30am

Wednesday Feb 14<sup>th</sup> Romsey UCAF at 1.30pm.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Worship Service conducted by Jeni Clampit 9.30am

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Worship Service conducted by Jay Brooks 9.30am.

There is a future event happening in May. On 5<sup>th</sup> May the **Singularity Choir** will be performing Gilbert & Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers' 1.30pm in the Romsey Church Hall.

## LENTEN STUDIES

Lent begins on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. We are planning to study **The Last Week** by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on Mondays at Woodend (this will likely change to Monday morning at 11 instead of Monday afternoon at 2.30...watch this space) Please contact Annette if you are interested in this study at a different time, in person or via Zoom and we'll see what we can arrange

## SIMBA SESSIONS

**Simba Sessions** returns to Kyneton Uniting in February! You are warmly invited to join at 7pm on the following Fridays: February 16<sup>th</sup>; March 15<sup>th</sup>; April 19<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup> (more dates in future – stay tuned!)

## PARTNERSHIP SERVICE ROMSEY

What a wonderful service we all enjoyed on the last day of 2023. a great way to move forward into the New Year with hope and anticipation. I don't think the Romsey congregation expected a large gathering, we thought many people would be away so it was a wonderful surprise to have a completely full church and many partnership friends stay for a cuppa, lunch and fellowship afterwards.

It really was such a joyous service, to hear a full church sing together, accompanied by the beautiful music played by Malcolm Cole and at different times during the service Paul. It was heartwarming for us all.

The contributions to the service by partnership congregation members, the thoughtful and meaningful presentation and content, prepared by Paul and Annette, provided for us all a wonderful spiritual experience.

It was also a great surprise to have a visit from Rev Alan Williams and his family Sharon and Charis while on a break between postings and now on his way to Canberra for his AirForce chaplaincy career.

Thankyou to all those kind people who helped with cooking, dishwashing and cleaning up, we were very grateful. A special thanks also for the sun, that shone through on the day, it made it perfect for an outside picnic and the BBQ.



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> Helen Aldridge, Pip Elston, Jenny Elston, Brian Lauder, Andrea Strack
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Church Council</u> Chair – Pip Elston Sec – Helen Aldridge, Helen Carey and elders (as above)	<u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs <u>Congregation Secretary</u> Helen Aldridge
<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>Op-Shop Contact:</u> Fiona Armour
<u>WOODEND</u>	<u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> – Robyn Zumstein	<u>Poperty Committee</u>
<u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u>	<u>White Goose</u> - Meg Evans	
<u>GISBORNE</u>	<u>Prayer Ministry</u> – D’Arcy Wood <u>Pastoral Care</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> – Nola Anderson <u>Worship &amp; Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Faith &amp; Community</u> – Kerrie Birch – Wendy Hallinan - Helen Hallett
<u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Secretary</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Finance Committee</u> Chair - Paul Gilbertson, Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman

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](http://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au)

CONGREGATION DETAILS	CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROPERTY	CoCo REPS
<p><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)</p>	Pip Elston	Helen Aldridge miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<p><u>Finance Committee</u>            Helen Carey            (Treas)            Roy Gibbs            Jenny Elston</p>	Church Council Executive	<p>Marge Townrow            Dot Smith            Pip Elston, Lyn Ward,            Helen Aldridge(alt)</p>
<p><u>ROMSEY</u> - 25 Pohlman St            (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)</p>	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit	Roger Baker		Noel Shaw, Jeni Clampit, Jay Brooks (alt)
<p><u>TYLDEN</u> - Trentham Rd            (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden,            3444)</p>	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole	Dawn Hinneberg	Max Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Dawn Hinneberg
<p><u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St</p>					
<p><u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St</p>	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

Greetings to all in the Partnership. It is my privilege to see a little bit of what goes on in all congregations when I get news from different places. Thanks to all who have sent things to me for PiP. Sometimes I get information wrong, sometimes you might think things are missing – please keep me informed! Deadline for March edition is 18<sup>th</sup> February

Robyn 😊

zumstein@mmnet.com.au

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