



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 83 DECEMBER 2022-JANUARY 2023

COME OUT AND PLAY?



For a good chunk of the wet, cold winter that interrupted autumn with a bang, and has persisted way longer than is seemly for a season of the year, I have been watching a transformation take place just down the road. The corner where I begin and end my morning run each day (perhaps a little less frequently this year - see description of weather above) is the former playground of the old Romsey Primary School. A dedicated committee has worked tirelessly for something like 15

years to raise funds for a special playground. A small section on the farthest side from me was opened a couple of years ago, but the majority of the work was completed over the early and middle months of this year. It has been a real delight to watch it all take shape, and to imagine what it would all be like when it was finished.



This park is not just a 'swings and slides' sort of place. The vision was to build a park that would welcome and provide for people of all abilities, a place that contained artworks and space for contemplation. It was designed with interactive elements; water play, climbing, bells, a trail to follow, smooth paths but also lots of stepping stones. It was also designed to be able to provide quiet places to sit and enjoy the surroundings, and spaces for gathering with others. It is calming and restful, risky and adventurous; a place to enjoy alone or to have a party. It is a small wonder of beauty and delight.

I am so fortunate to largely have it to myself each morning. It has become my own private space for prayer and contemplation as I begin my day. There is a beautiful mosaic 'yarning place', based on a painting by a First Nations artist, Simone Thomson. The painting hangs in the Romsey Hub, but the mosaic sits in a central spot in the park, with solid blocks of stone to sit on around it. It has become the place where I stop each morning to pay my respects to the people who care for the land on which I live, work and play.



(continued on page 3)

LECTIONARY Readings Year A

Advent

A season of preparation, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, in which the church recalls its hope and expectation in the coming of Christ past, present and future.

Date	Day/Season	Colour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
27 Nov	Advent 1	P	Isaiah 2:1-5	122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
4 Dec	Advent 2	P	Isaiah 11:1-10	72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
11 Dec	Advent 3	P	Isaiah 35:1-10	146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
18 Dec	Advent 4	P	Isaiah 7:10-16	80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas

The Christmas season includes Christmas Eve/Day and the twelve days of Christmas. It recalls the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ. The Church in this time celebrates the wonder of the incarnation. (Any of the Nativity selections may be used either for Christmas Day or Christmas Eve services.)

24/25 Dec	Christmas Day 1	W	Isaiah 9: 2-7	96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
	Christmas Day 2	W	Isaiah 62:6-12	97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:1-7 (8-20)
	Christmas Day 3	W	Isaiah 52:7-10	98	Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)	John 1:1-14
1 Jan	Christmas 1	W	Isaiah 63:7-9	148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23
1 Jan	New Year's Day	W	Eccl 3:1-13	8	Revelations 21:1-6a	Matthew 25:31-46
1 Jan	Holy Name of Jesus	W	Numbers 6:22-27	8	Galatians 4:4-7 or Phil 2:5-11	Luke 2:15-21

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.

6 Jan	Epiphany of the Lord	W	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:1-7,10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
8 Jan	Baptism of Jesus	W	Isaiah 42:1-9	29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
15 Jan	Epiphany 2	G	Isaiah 49:1-7	40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
22 Jan	Epiphany 3	G	Isaiah 9:1-4	27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
29 Jan	Epiphany 4	G	Micah 6:1-8	15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
2 Feb	Presentation of the Lord	G	Malachi 3: 1-4	84 or 24: 7-10	Hebrews 2: 14-18	Luke 2: 22-40
5 Feb	Epiphany 5	G	Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)	112:1-9 (10)	1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

(from page 1) As I wander through the park each morning, I'm beginning to build a kind of contemplative trail through the park, or perhaps something more like a series of 'stations'. The water pump (yes, really!) asks me to consider where I might seek living water today. The



wind sculptures whisper of the Spirits dance - sometimes slow and graceful, sometimes barely perceptible, sometimes wild and whirling. The (deliberately) wobbly bridge asks me about the bridges I might have to cross today, or what I will do when the ground beneath my feet seems to give way. Water wheels, chimes, small and growing plants, rock and flower, resting place and invitation to climb...all are sending little tendrils, sprouting and weaving into something I can't quite grasp yet. It might be a contemplative walk. It might be a time of worship, or an invitation to spiritual practice with others. It is another delight to ponder what is taking shape, and to imagine what might grow.



I am grateful for much about this park, even though it has been part of my life for such a short time. It has taught me something about myself that I didn't know: that my spirit is nourished by substance: by having water to run over my hand, or a solid rock to touch, or a place to sit and rest. It provides me with a new doorway to God's presence in all things. And any people who might be present are not an interruption to my solitary contemplation, but a gift to be welcomed and appreciated. It has also been a demonstration, unfolding literally in my street, of a vital process for creating space for Life: A vision. Listening to the community, and considering what might help it to thrive. The creation of something new from something that had outlived its original purpose. A place that invites and welcomes all. Beauty, delight, wonder, play. A gift to enable people to connect with what's important.

I hope these images give you a taste of the Romsey Ecotherapy Park. Who wants to come out and play?

"The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood" John 1:14
The Message

Pastor Annette Buckley November 2022

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... a Great Aussie Christmas

Join us at Gisborne Uniting Church on Tuesday December 13 from 10-12noon.



It might just be a warm dry day (remember those ones?). Even if it is still raining, we will be singing John Wheeler's rollicking Australian carol, *'The north wind is tossing the leaves; the red dust is over the town'*.

We'll also listen to our special Christmas Quartet sing other Wheeler carols.

And there'll be a prize for the best decorated Aussie Christmas headwear.

Out with the robins and holly and in with banksias and grevilleas.

You might like to bring along a few coins to help us fill a billy can for Frontier Services.

Submitted by Janet Wood

White Goose will be Open **Wednesday 21st December** so you can stock up on books (in case Santa and the family don't give you any!)

But we will **NOT be open 28th Dec 2022 and 4th Jan 2023.**

We look forward to Welcoming you back on Wednesday 11th Jan 2023.

Story time will recommence after the school holidays,

but there are lots of children's and teen books for borrowing to take on holidays



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2022</h1> <p>AB- Pastor Annette Buckley; ME – Rev Deac Meg Evans; LY – Rev Linda Young (supply) Services marked with ministers will include Holy Communion (HC). January services mostly tbc</p>				1	2	3
					10am Prayers at Gisborne	CoCo meets
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Advent 2 9.30am Tylden AB	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation		9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton HC	Op Shop morning tea
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Advent 3 9.30am Gisborne AB 10am Mia Mia ME tbc	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation	10am Muffin 'n' More Gisborne	9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Advent 4 9.30am Kyneton AB 7pm Sutton Grange UC Carols	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community	10am Worship at Gisborne (tbc)	9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek 10am Ministers Munch Northern Churches (tbc)		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	Christmas Eve 7.30pm Tylden 7.30pm Gisborne AB
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day 9.30am Romsey ME 9.30am Kyneton LY 9.30am Gisborne AB					10am Prayers at Gisborne	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.30am Tylden AB					10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9.30am Gisborne AB	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community		9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9.30am Kyneton AB	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community		9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton HC - AB	*PiP articles due tomorrow please
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9.30am Romsey AB 10am Northern Congregations - TBA	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community	10am Gisborne Alternative Worship - tbc	9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	
29	30	31	<h1>January 2023</h1>			
9.30am Partnership Service details TBC	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community					

Wheeling toward Christmas

The ABC script writer John Wheeler lived in Colac. One summer day a friend overheard him say something like this to the composer William James:

“Why do we sing about robins and snow when the wind is tossing the leaves and there is red dust everywhere?”

The result of this conversation was the carol “The north wind is tossing the leaves” (TIS 322).

Wheeler and James went on to write four more carols and their 1948 booklet sold very well.

Later on they wrote 10 more, but it is the first five which are most frequently sung across Australia.

At the “Muffin ‘n’ More” in Gisborne on 13th December a quartet will sing four of the 15, with the audience joining in TIS 322.

Submitted by D’Arcy Wood



Tylden News

Christmas eve traditional and Australian carols will be held at **Tylden at 7:30 pm**. All are welcome.

On behalf of the Tylden/Woodend Op Shop committee:

The committee will hold a morning tea on December 7 at Woodend Uniting Church to thank all those who have helped us during the year.

Donations will be given to Tylden CFA, Woodend CFA, Woodend Ambulance, Woodend Primary school, Trentham Primary School and Kyneton Secondary College. Because we have been able to trade continuously this year these donations have been increased to \$1500 each.

During October a special week of trading was donated to the Victorian flood appeal; the amount raised was over \$1500 and was our third special appeal for this year. Other appeals were for the NSW floods and for Tonga each of these were over \$1000.

During the year we farewelled Robyn Wade who had been a volunteer with us for twelve years, great service, very much appreciated.

On a sadder note, we pay tribute to Peigi Hudson. Peigi has volunteered at the shop for more than 15 years. Peigi lost her life in an accident recently when a tree fell on their car. She served on the committee as a community representative until early this year. Peigi was a good friend especially to the Friday workers and well known to those who worked on other days for her warm companionship. We send our condolences to her family.

Church in the community on a long-distance walk in Wales

submitted by Susan McInnes

Finally after two years delay, John and I set out in September 2022 for two long-distance walks in Wales along two different paths totalling 600 kilometres in length.

There are lots of public rights-of-way through farmland in the UK, and you end up walking across paddocks with livestock or crops, through orchards, past sheds and outbuildings and sometimes along driveways of houses and close to windows trying not to pry. These paths were no exception.

We usually walked about 20 to 30 kilometres each day and stayed in pubs, bed and breakfasts and farmhouses which were all pre booked while our luggage was transported forward to the next accommodation each morning. I call it comfort walking – no tent, no heavy pack. We used sign posts marking the trail with an acorn and, where they were invisible or there was no apparent path, a route downloaded on our phone and a GPS back up to pick up the track.

The Coast Path, not surprisingly followed the Welsh coast fairly closely from Amroth on the Bristol Channel to St Dogmaels on the Irish Sea near Cardigan. It is a distance of 300 kilometres. There was the exception when we needed to detour inland around active Ministry of Defence installations in the first few days and a long, hilly high tide diversion at Sandy Haven.

We saw rolling farmlands, white beaches, burnt foreshore, thorny hedgerows, sheep, gates, more gates, stiles, sheep, cattle, Welsh ponies and, later in the walk, lots of seals and pups down the cliffs in the rocky coves.

Once we finished the Coast Path we took a day’s break and travelled by public transport to Chepstow on the Welsh-English border.



Susan and John in front of the monkey trees on the stunning Hergest Ridge Offa’s Dyke Path Wales

Chepstow is very close to the start of Offa's Dyke Path. The huge earthwork Offa's Dyke was built in the 700's at the direction of the Mercian King Offa to keep the Welsh hordes out of England.

We used our rest day at Chepstow to walk out to the official start of the walk on the south coast at Sedbury, just a few kilometres from our hotel at Chepstow, mostly through suburbia.

The next day we walked out from Chepstow north for 15 days plus a rest day at Knighton to Prestatyn on the Irish Sea. While you were all having rain and floods in Australia, we were mostly rain free in Wales. But then we reached the Black Mountain Range and Longtown.

That's where we were very grateful to the local bus and some of the local churches— the people and the buildings for shelter and refreshment along the way.

We had a superb day walking high on the first day on the Black Mountain Range, sunny, blue skies, magnificent views over Monmouthshire and Herefordshire below. Big round bales of bracken cut for winter bedding for livestock. We happily came down off the Range to Longtown and our inn for the night by 1pm. The two American women also walking the path that day weren't so lucky with their navigation and overshot a turn and ended up in the dark and the rain being rescued by our host at 7.30pm.

So, the rain, our first real rain in 3 weeks and it was predicted to bucket down the next day with gale force winds up on the range. I did some quick research on alternative travel to Hay-On-Wye, the book town we were due to walk to the next day after climbing back 700 metres onto Black Mountain Range. There was one bus a week out of Longtown and mercifully it ran on a Wednesday. The next morning confirmed the vile weather report and we couldn't even see Black Mountain Range right above our inn. The gale force winds had not blown the rain away. The Americans decided the bus was a good idea too. Meanwhile our two travelling companions decided to be purists and braved the climb and walk to Hay-On-Wye in the rain and wind and were rewarded with no views and being wet and frozen.

Our bus turned up on time and there was a merry old party going on with local women meeting up to go into Hereford. The rain pelted down in Hereford but we walked up the High Street Mall and saw a sign outside a very beautiful old church saying Bill's Kitchen, so we scurried inside out of the rain to a warm, welcoming cafe on the ground floor of the church extending upstairs to a newly built mezzanine floor for table seating.

So we enjoyed a cosy shelter and a warm lunch in All Saints Church in Hereford with church activities proceeding around us. There looked to be a study group calmly going on while the munchers continued their refreshments.

A most welcome retreat and a very appropriate cafe space for Bill to lease from the church right on the high street shopping precinct. We returned to the bus exchange and caught the next connecting bus to Hay-On-Wye.

Our next welcome was to St Mary's Church in Newchurch further along our walk. Our guide book had noted that St Mary's was right beside Offa's Dyke Path and offered hot and cold drinks to



walkers in the church. The book was right; there was a welcoming sign outside the church saying tea and coffee. I was thinking how can such a small village have people on standby to serve drinks to a few walkers over the course of the day. But of course, the church door was left open and it was serve-yourself with a kettle, water, milk in the fridge and biscuits. Again, shelter from the wind outside, a welcome sit down and a warm drink. Our group had expanded to 7 by then with the 4 Australians, the two American women who got lost again that

afternoon and came in after dark and a spritely 80-year-old Englishman from Bedford whom we'd picked up on the way.

So, thanks to All Saints Hereford for their vision to change with the times and St Mary's Newchurch for their generosity in keeping the church open for rest and sustenance to weary passing walkers.

We continued on our way north with many more stories to tell of our walking adventure in Wales.



Susan's photos clockwise from left: St Mary's church sign offering tea and coffee in the open church; Bill's Kitchen, part of the All Saints Church in Hereford; St Mary's Church – a welcome shelter from the wind

Action at the White Goose, Riddells Creek

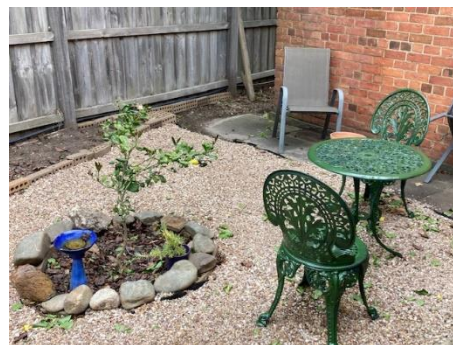
There's lots of action around the White Goose at the moment. Unfortunately, most of it is NOT in the church building! Firstly, there is the upgrade of Sutherlands Road with new surfaces, kerbs and gutters which when completed will be a great improvement. Now we hear work on the road will be delayed until August while NBN cables are laid! Unfortunately, these public works severely hinder our access to the building.

There is however some progress on work on our building: a new kitchen window has been ordered and the range hood over the stove has been fitted and is in working order. How we look forward to being able to re-open once again.

Meanwhile we have been offered a bookshelf at the Riddell Neighbourhood House.

We are finalising plans for this to happen and will let you know as soon as we can when it's up and running.

Meg.



The new courtyard at the White Goose

RECYCLING AT RIDDELL

Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House is now collecting Blister Packs (foil tablet containers -not Webster Packs yet) for recycling. You can leave them in the appropriate box on the verandah or Meg is happy to arrange to collect them from churches and /or Op Shops around the partnership.

They are also able to send bread tags, toothpaste tubes and coffee pods (not Nespresso).

I think other places are collecting batteries and ink cartridges. Meg

Flood Relief

Damian and I were deployed to Echuca during October as the floods were rising there. We have been SES volunteers for 5 years now. We spent our time in "operations", logging requests for assistance and sending out the appropriate team to respond. We worked with CFA, VicPol, Fire rescue Victoria, Mine Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, SES members from around the state and the army.

It was a rewarding and exhausting experience, working 12 hours a day. And we also had two helicopter rides!



Submitted by Wendy Hallinan

Bucket collection last Muffin day at Gisborne

We had Colin, Norm and Merren share experiences of volunteer support to emergency situations. Then we proceeded to fill 38 buckets with items to help with the clean up after the floods.

photos from Paul G



Treasure every experience, you never get those moments back

Wendy Hebbard

The world's most famous Passion Play was worth the wait

For decades I have been hearing (mostly) older folk rave about their visit to the Passion Play at Oberammergau, nestled in Germany's picturesque Bavarian alps. I am now one of them!

The Passion Play started almost 400 years ago when the Oberammergau village elders made a vow to God in 1633 that they would honour him by putting on a Passion Play every ten years if he spared them from the plague. He did, and they kept their vow.

Sadly, the 2020 performances were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The irony was not lost on me and the disappointment was great. However, God graciously allowed me to just postpone my plans and I finally made it – on 11th August, 2022 – to what must be the world's most elaborate and famous Passion Play.

Was it worth the wait? YES! No doubt about it.

The Passion Play is not strictly a word-for-word account from one of the gospels of the week leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. The current director has been quoted as saying that the script has evolved because people come to the play with less prior knowledge of the story than was assumed in previous years.

Therefore, I was pleasantly surprised to see that the play begins in the garden of Eden with a description of The Fall and the hope that springs from the future cross to banished humanity.

Throughout the play, the audience is treated to some beautiful vignettes of Old Testament stories that help it understand the context of Passion Week. The Golden Calf, the crossing of the Red Sea, Daniel in the lion's den, Moses before Pharaoh, the sacrifice of Isaac and more all point us to the Messiah, the one who would redeem the world and atone for humanity's sin.

As Jesus walks the Via Dolorosa to his crucifixion, the choir sings:

*Worship him and give thanks!
He who drank the cup of suffering,
Walks the way of sorrows crowned with thorns,
Until he reconciles the world to God!*

The production quality is second to none. How they managed to nail Jesus to a cross and get him down again in front of my eyes remains a mystery. From the triumphal entry to the angry hordes baying for Jesus' blood while Pilate tries to walk a fine line between upholding Roman law and acceding to Caiaphas's demand that Jesus be executed, all scenes immerse the audience in the moment. The sense of participating in the events is palpable. The sight of dozens of children playing in the marketplace amid the chaos of life with real animals (big ones!) is overwhelming at times but wonderful as well.

Such is the power and beauty of this well-rounded portrayal of The Passion that the five-and-a-half hours' of performance fly by. It is an audio/visual feast of the highest order. Helpfully, there is a long break for dinner and an opportunity to catch one's breath before the second act.

Despite the play being performed entirely in German, participants are given a book of the text of the play in a language they can understand. It is remarkably easy to follow if you know the story, but I also found studying Matthew's Gospel beforehand helpful.

Behind the scenes, the story of the Passion Play is quite remarkable. Male residents of Oberammergau begin growing their beards a year or more out from opening night. Many performers have played various roles over their whole lifetimes as they grew older.

All in all, around 1,800 Oberammergauans participate in the play, on the stage as actors, 126 in the choir and a similar number in the orchestra. They are rostered on to play their part at the prescribed times and go to their day job the rest of the time. Of course, the major parts are played by full-time actors who live and breathe their characters. Pilate was as I imagined him. The same can be said for Caiaphas, Herod and Peter. These are not professional actors mind you; they are residents who were born in Oberammergau or have lived there for some 20 years or so.



The main players of the cast were also taken to Jerusalem to let them feel the actual city and the place where this story actually took place. If they were like me, I have always dreamt of visiting Jerusalem to just experience walking where Jesus walked, immersing myself in the culture and environment that Jesus walked into when he walked into that city. I have yet to realise that dream but this play definitely did it for me. The noise, the hustle and bustle, this new kid on the block trying to get his message of love and social justice across to a people going about their busy daily lives. The kids running amuck, the so authentic costumes, sheep, goats, soldiers' horses, the

occasional camel, all on the stage, even the sheep making a mess on the stage that was there for the entire performance, you couldn't help but be drawn into Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

Local Christians use the Passion Play as an opportunity to introduce people to the real Jesus. I was glad to have the opportunity to see first-hand how the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oberammergau and the Gideons do this.

The Lutheran church is located just a stone's throw from the theatre and has recently added an extension to the building where tea, coffee and water are offered to guests while conversation about the Passion Play is encouraged. The church even employs 'Tourism Pastors' to engage with the people who drop in.

The Local Gideons are on hand to give anyone who wants one, a copy of the New Testament for free so they can read the story for themselves. As people approach the theatre, faithful servants hand out the Scriptures in a variety of languages.

Being in Bavaria, it's hard not to cast a Jesus who looks, well, Bavarian! The strength by which he played the part can only come from a person who has worked very hard to understand the story and the man. The text of the play clearly spells out Jesus' role as the God/man who was sent to atone for the sin of the world, but at times, the play seemed to downplay the deity of Christ.

There were so many stand out performances, getting used to each actor and when they came and went in the performance took a while to adjust to. The play was very true to life, some scenes were played at break neck speed as the heated discussions took place in the town square, Jesus making his point to the people, the Jewish elders questioning and rebuking, Jesus disciples interjecting, defending, kids running around being kids, the Roman soldiers, some on foot, some on horses, real horses, keeping a watchful eye on proceedings, in a market place where life was busy anyway. I have only read these stories in the bible, at Christmas time, at my leisure, quietly in church or at home, in manageable chunks. Before me now are the same stories, but not stories, real life, Jesus is standing in front of me talking to me, being invited to the last supper, there are the twelve sharing a meal, sharing in disbelief as Jesus washes their feet. The



betrayal, the pieces of silver, a new perspective on Judas and his thinking through his reasoning behind why he handed Jesus over, resulting in his realisation that he had been scammed by the Caiaphas and that forgiveness was never going to be possible resulting in him making the decision to end it all, Judas on the stage hanging on a rope. I had never considered this angle before. And happening at the same time, Is Peter's rejection of Jesus at the eleventh hour to save himself from any collateral harm from the Romans and his ultimate attitude that forgiveness from Jesus was possible, the opposite outcome to Judas. All this going on while reading my little book. At times you ignored the book because you were being drawn into what was happening on stage.

Mary, his mother, was also somewhat understated. This led to an unexpected ending, despite the triumph of the resurrection being portrayed as The Light going out into all the world. If I were directing the play, I would have ended with the Jesus character making a visible, bodily appearance as per 1 Corinthians 15. I was hoping for it, praying for it and readying myself to be totally overwhelmed again at the sight of the resurrected Lord. I was a little disappointed. Then I read in my little book how the final scene was staged in a manner reflecting the liturgy. Jesus is carried to his grave but is not visible. This eliminates the depiction of the guards at the tomb. An angel tells the women: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, he is risen." The risen Lord appears only briefly. Mary of Magdala then announces to the audience "I know my that my Saviour lives". The tribute to the celebration of light during the Easter Vigil Mass, the music and reserved visual staging emphasize the character of the numinous and incomprehensible holiness. Thus, the final scene of the play emphasizes the theological principle: the resurrection is a "mystery of faith". This dramatic but unexpected ending helped reinforce for me the level of religious involvement put into the script to make it both true to the original scriptures, but true to the play but also relevant to a wide range of knowledge of the people watching it.

That doesn't mean it isn't worth seeing. On the contrary, I recommend it as a way of entering into the experience of the story and filling out your knowledge of the gospels, indeed the whole canon of Scripture. I can understand why many people take the trouble to attend a number of times, I would have loved to have gone again in a couple of days to pick up on all the things I missed; maybe next time.

The final song includes these words:

*Risen is the Lord!
Shout out praises to him, you heavens!
Sing to the victor you O earth!
Hallelujah, to you Risen One!*

I can live with that – for eternity.



Photos and words from David Liebich



We are sad that Rose Broadstock has now finished her time with us in the Partnership. She was farewelled at the Partnership service at Tylden in October. Here she is with her new avocado tree at Tylden UC. We wish Rose all the best with many blessings for her next adventure without us



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO
Explore your faith further
with a group of like-minded people?**

**FAITH COMMUNITY
meets at Woodend Church
each Monday @ 2.30pm
where the discussions are
centred on the Lectionary for the week
and give us the opportunity to explore and
deepen our faith.**

**If this time and/or place doesn't suit you
please let Annette know your preference,
as we would like to share this opportunity with as
many as possible.**

News from Gisborne

Gisborne UC is currently running the UnitingWorld Everything in Common Gift Shop to purchase all sorts of meaningful gifts such as chickens, clean water, goats, toilets, etc., for people in need around the World – a way of our being of enormous help without our being able to be there.

Also, we are collecting Christmas gifts for Uniting, Lentara in Broadmeadows on the first two Sundays in December. The need is always great there – we supply groceries etc. to them during the year – but at Christmas time, the need is greater.

I think a BIG thankyou is in order to all our technical folk within our Partnership who have spent numerous hours and weekends this year attempting to connect our screens within the Macedon Ranges Partnership. What would we do without them?

Romsey News

There will be a Christmas Day Service at Romsey 9.30am, Meg Evans will conduct the service as well as Holy Communion.

Romsey and Lancefield Uniting Churches will operate alternatively during January, services being at 10am

January 1st Lancefield; 8th Romsey; 15th Lancefield; 22nd Romsey; 29th Partnership Service; Then February, Romsey return to normal services at 9.30am.

Kyneton Celebration

On Monday 21st November a group of people gathered together in the grounds of the Kyneton Uniting Church to celebrate Doug and Jean Hedington and the work they have done in and for the Kyneton community over many decades. The Kyneton Horticultural Society chose a Japanese Larch (*Larix kaempferi*) to plant in their honour. The rain stopped about 5 minutes before the gathering (6.30pm) and we were able to witness the Hedington's planting their tree in a hole that was full of water!! The Horticultural Society then invited everyone back to their meeting for refreshments. It was a lovely recognition for 2 people who have worked tirelessly for the community and the church feels blessed to have been a part of it and to have safekeeping of the special tree.

If you are reading this in black and white print and wish to see it in colour, please check out the web version available on the partnership website at the following address:

<https://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au/partnership-in-print-archives>

DID YOU SEE??

In a recent issue of
UNITING WORLD'S 7 DAYS of SOLIDARITY -
A celebration of our Global Neighbours

there were 7 days of Prayer and Actions for the Day

Day 1 Think of someone who is from a minority group in your community - the colour of their skin, their faith, their mother-tongue. Reach out to let them know that you value their difference and welcome them into your life.

Day 2 Have a look in your recycling bin and count all the single-use plastics in there. Pick one or two changes you can make to cut back on them (www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/tips-reduce-plastic). The blue waters of Tuvalu will thank you.

Day 3 Your voice as a citizen is vital if Australia is to do our bit to fight climate change. Visit the Climate Council (www.climatecouncil.org.au), learn about how you can advocate for action that will save not just Fiji but our own incredible bushland, reefs and wildlife.

Day 4 The Diocese of Amritsar (North India) has embraced technology wholeheartedly during the course of the Pandemic. Visit their Facebook page to see and share examples of their creative online worship!
www.facebook.com/doacni1234

Day 5 What could you achieve if the Christian denominations in your area decided to work together? Gather some friends from your church to visit another local church in your area over a few Sundays. See if you can get people interested in a little project to bless your community.

Day 6 Think about your home and your church property. How welcome do you think people with disability feel in your community? Are there access ramps or strategies to help vision and hearing-impaired people? Can you suggest changes that could be made?

Day 7 If your congregation vanished overnight, what would non-members, local or far afield, miss most? Think of an action you can take to strengthen your faith community in how you bless those around you. Or call others to join you in a new initiative if you feel inspired.

Submitted by Lyn Ward

A book about a local character in Trentham: **“Gweneth Wisewould. Outpost Doctor”** by Ian Braybrook.

Gweneth came from a well-to-do and privileged family. She studied medicine, graduating in 1910. But she didn't take a life of money or luxury. She ended up serving people in the Trentham area, not that far from here.

She was unconventional. She wore men's trousers and drove an old Ford utility. But she cared for her patients, visiting them in remote Bush places, some of whom were lonely, derelict men -victims of the Depression and alcohol. Others having had accidents.

She didn't send them a bill. But a lot of people paid up, and I think a lot of repayments were in “goods”. But she was so well-loved and she definitely served the district. Quoting from the book which has been written by Ian Braybrook he said that.” Almost without exception, people in Trentham District spoke of Gwen in glowing terms. It is rare indeed to find a person unanimously admired.”

She worked in the district during the 1930's and 40's and kept that up until she was quite old herself (1970's)

The book I found quite absorbing, well -written and interesting. I could relate to it because she worked in our local area.

Published by Bennett Publishing in 2016, I could recommend anyone to read it and enjoy learning about the life of that eccentric, dedicated and amazing woman.

Reviewed by Wendy Hebbard in March 2022

Christmas Day



THE CHRISTMAS BOWL SINCE 1949

Merry Christmas!

Mugisha*, along with her sister and two young children are just some of the millions of families living as refugees around the world. Mugisha fled to Kenya after conflict broke out in her home country of Congo. Since arriving, she has faced many challenges to meet the basic needs for her family. Through the Christmas Bowl, our local partners around the world can continue to share God's love with refugees like Mugisha by providing food, care and lifesaving support. **Please give today.**

*Mugisha's name has been changed for safety reasons.



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

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 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 & 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

Meditation in Romsey across December and January

Meditation continues Monday evenings until 12th December this year. Starting date in January will be discussed at this time. If you are interested in joining in next year, please give Steve a call on 0411781695. Further information will be available in the February edition of PiP

Minister-led Worship times in the Partnership in December and January

Please see the calendar for minister-led worships across the Partnership during December and January. At time of printing some of these dates still need confirming.

Congregations are strongly encouraged to join together via Microsoft Teams for worship. It is likely that we will all share communion in this way on Sunday 1st January, but as we prepare PiP the details have not yet been confirmed.

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 1st and 3rd Sundays
- Northern Churches 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	
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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 <u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebden 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 (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

I am delighted to present **Partnership in Print** to you this month, with enough to read to keep you going through January! What wonderful ways our God is present in our lives and in our region. Perhaps you too will be inspired to consider where Christ is stirring you in your life and you will share it with us for our next edition in February 2023. Please send me your additions for PIP by **22nd January 2023**. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe and peaceful start to the New Year.

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