



## PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 78 JULY 2022

### HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY OF TATURA UNITING CHURCH?



It faced what many churches face: maintenance problems, roof problems, uncomfortable and cold in winter. It needed significant amounts of money to fix, which they didn't have. And the congregation was getting smaller. Was this a good use of the Church's money?



What about if we could find a property that suited our purposes better, that gave us ways to really connect with local people? So the congregation started looking around and eventually sold their property in order to buy a café and gallery in the middle of town. It had a great kitchen and a café space. The gallery space (with an open fire) became a perfect space for worship, meetings and spaces to share with the community. Upstairs was a flat that could be rented out.

So now a cold church space with a small congregation and big maintenance problems has become a fit for purpose space, full of life. Look at the three photos here – which congregational space would attract you? (Here is the link to the Tatura film clip.

<https://youtu.be/7L8cVVmfB3w>)



This story is told not to encourage everyone to go off and buy a café. It's told to emphasis the wonderful benefits to be expected of thinking creatively and courageously.

We don't need to go far from home though to see other great examples.

It's been great to spend time at **Woodend UC**. In case you don't know the story, the congregation decided that Church in its current form had ended. It must have been a sad moment for that little group. Yet how great to look at its growth since then. The development of a Faith Community Monday afternoons with the Minister present most weeks. No more meetings, Church Councils, looking for people to take on roles. Just gathering for worship and community.

Building on the fantastic work of the Op Shop, and with wonderful help from a few people from other congregations, a weekly community lunch began, to which people from the community began to attend. Covid put paid to all this for a while, but now all this has recommenced, and it is exciting. Also, community groups like Rural Australians for Refugees have begun to gather there so there's a feeling of the doors open and the community coming through them.

Simple church, being together to eat, pray and talk, and share with the community – a story of moving from dying to thriving. And Riddells Creek UC would be another.

Other examples in the Partnership have inspired me as I've spent these few short months with you.

The idea of Fish and Chips night at **Kyneton** alternating with a fortnightly Sunday worship. Less stress for lay worship leaders, a strengthening of the congregation's relationships, sometimes better attendance than Sunday morning, sharing together round tables – relaxing, eating, praying - and seeing the Minister much more. It's an inspiration to see a congregation experiment with alternating Sunday morning worship and other worship, and bravely give it a go.

Further North, how great to see the Redesdale Café gathering! Thank you Brian and the Northerners for your faithful, imaginative mission heart.

(continued on page 3)

## LECTIONARY Readings Year C

### After Pentecost

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

Date	Day/Season	Colour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
3 July	Pentecost 4 (14)	G	2 Kings 5:1-14	30	Galations 6:(1-6), 7-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
10 July	Pentecost 5 (15)		Amos 7:7-17	82	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
17 July	Pentecost 6 (16)		Amos 8:1-12	52	Colossians 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42
24 July	Pentecost 7 (17)		Hosea 1:2-10	85	Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)	Luke 11:1-13
31 July	Pentecost 8 (18)		Hosea 11:1-11	107:1-9, 43	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
7 August	Pentecost 9 (19)		Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	50:1-8, 22-23	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

### A Message from Bronwyn Tacey regarding The Shared Table

Hi All,

Hope you are all well. I have been meaning to email you for ages as there is now no link from the School to Shared Table I just wanted to let you know if you have any needy families due to loss of income, illness, trauma etc I'm sure Shared Table would be more than happy to help out. The contact is Vicki Hawken and her email is [vhawken@msn.com](mailto:vhawken@msn.com)

Keep warm.

Bronwyn



Congratulations to Karen Eller on her Ordination which was held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June It was a well-attended and special event.

We are also invited to join Karen for her Induction at Port Arlington Uniting Church on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm



(from page 1) It was exciting to hear about the Christian Meditation group meeting at **Romsey**. Could this be an opportunity to consider the Kyneton model of alternating Sundays and other times? It's great to hear the conversation going on here too.

The temperature is warmer, and worshipping together feels warmer at **Tylden** as it meets for church round the table in the kitchen, as Jesus and his disciples always did. Simple but intimate church. A great example of a way of being Church that people not used to traditional Church could feel very comfortable with. Not to mention breakfast worships in the park! Tylden might be small, but its capacity for experimentation is inspirational.

Interestingly, **Gisborne** maintain a traditional Sunday morning approach and regularly welcome new people, so that approach is working where they are. So then the question isn't really about Sunday worship, but what way of being church will help us thrive here in this particular place, with less work for our leaders yet has potential to create more ways for local non-Church people to find a way in.

The need to think about new ways of being Church has become sharper than ever, as the Ministry team changes. Once there is only one Minister (Nov 2022) the preaching plan will change significantly. Yes there is plenty of worship available over the seven day week, but one Minister will only be able to get to all Sunday preaching places perhaps once every two months (Keeping in mind the Minister is also leading worships through the week).

So perhaps it's a particularly timely moment to think about how to make being Church less onerous for lay leaders, and at the same time, provide an opportunity to thrive. If we're open to talking about this, sometimes what looks like bad news can actually be transformational.

And it's good to keep in mind that this Partnership is so well resourced financially, so there is plenty of resource for minor and major experiments. Across the Partnership there is about 10 million dollars of property – a wealth most community organisations and certainly rural congregations couldn't dream of.

So are there better and transformational ways that this huge resource could be more life-giving for congregations, and create a thriving future? If we are willing, the sky's the limit!

It's nine years now that I've had roles focusing on supporting congregations to vision and make the changes that create the opportunity to thrive. I've never seen a congregation take this step with willing hearts, and it not bear fruit. If it helps, I'm sure I, Annette and Meg would love the opportunity to come and spend time with your congregation as you consider these things.

What an inspirational place to be, with missional future conversations going on across it!  
May we have the courage and the imagination to keep responding to the call of Christ in this time.

### **Looking for.... Your Top Ten Hymns**

Remember *'Jesus wants me for a sunbeam'* or *'Stand up! Stand up for Jesus!'*?

Remember the hymn sung at your wedding or the one you hum when you're happy?

Now is your chance to debate with others the best 10 hymns of all time.

Joining in is simple.

Just list your 10 favourite hymns in order of preference with number 1 as your most loved.

Send or give this list to Janet ([janetda@bigpond.com](mailto:janetda@bigpond.com)) or D'Arcy

([harold.wood@bigpond.com](mailto:harold.wood@bigpond.com)) or Maree ([mclarke22@bigpond.com](mailto:mclarke22@bigpond.com)) by midday

**Wednesday July 6.**

Mark **July Tuesday 12** in your diary for a morning of music at Gisborne UC when we announce the results and sing your very favourite hymns.

Beginning at 10am and followed by a soup and bread lunch.

**Start thinking; start voting**

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## REPORT FROM COCO

COCO met at Tylden on 4<sup>th</sup> June

Much time was spent on Planning issues arising out of the Retreat in February. Discussion largely centred on Ministry support, in the interim, until Congregations are online. This could be some time off but progress is being made. A Minister can then lead Worship in a number of Congregations at the same time.

We now have 2 Congregations less, in the Partnership, but the Ministry Team has reduced from 3 to 1.5. It is hoped that we can continue with 1.5 next year with the .5 being ongoing.

Various suggestions were put forward to reduce the present heavy load on the Ministers, who also take Services during the week e.g., at nursing homes and mission work at the Hubs of Riddells Creek and Woodend

.(a) try and provide administrative support for the Ministers such as triaging with various community groups, managing Synod and Presbytery communications, WWCC's, property forms etc.

(b) not follow the Lectionary Readings so that a service could be repeated on different Sundays to another Congregation.

All of the above to be discussed at the Partnership Service at Woodend on 6th June at Woodend.

Woodend Op Shop – the Constitution was approved

Woodend Church heating is installed and the building is available for services

Riddells Creek Church now available

### Some Quotations to think About:

"Does the Body of Christ move us to contemplate God in creation? If so, then how can we say "Amen" to receiving the Body of Christ and perpetrate destruction of the environment?" —*Ilia Delio, Keith Douglas Warner, Pamela Wood*

Simple living is about freedom. It's about a freedom to choose space rather than clutter, to choose open and generous living rather than a secure and sheltered way. —*José Hobday*

God calls us to mystical activism, a deep-rooted spirituality inspired by our encounters with God and commitment to our spiritual practices, to bring beauty and healing to the world. —*Bruce Epperly*

As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that greater peace is in your hearts. —*Francis of Assisi*

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## ***Ecumenical Peace Prayer 2022***

Loving God, we long for a life of peace with one another.

When egoism and injustice prevail,  
when violence breaks out between people, when reconciliation seems impossible,  
you are the one who gives us hope and peace.

When differences in language, culture or belief cause us to forget that we are your  
creation and  
that you have given us creation to take care of as a common home, then are you the one  
who gives us hope and peace.

When people are played off against each other, when power is abused in order to use  
others, when events are manipulated  
to deceive others, then you are the one who gives us hope and peace.

Teach us to treat each other justly and with compassion and to withstand corruption.

Give us courageous women and men,  
who heal the wounds that hate and violence have left upon bodies and souls.

Help us to find the correct words, gestures and means in order to promote peace.

In whatever language we confess you as the "Prince of Peace",  
let our voices also be raised clearly against violence and injustice.

Amen.

Sr. Traude Leitenberger, Diaconal Sister of the Stuttgart Motherhouse, Germany (Evangelische  
Diakonissenanstalt Stuttgart), Secretary DIAKONIA World Federation  
From Diakonia World Prayer Newsletter May 2022

Minister led worships in July are noted in the **Calendar**. These Sundays Holy Communion will be taken by one of the ministry team. Other Sunday services across the partnership are led by local lay worship leaders as arranged by each church. There may be last minute changes to who is taking the minister led services this month.

### **Worship across the partnership: Weekly Sunday service times:**

- Tylden is at 9.30am
- Gisborne is at 9:30am
- Romsey is at 9.30am
- Kyneton is at 9.30am on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays
- Northern Churches at 10am, preceded by morning tea at 9.30am



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b>	<div>July 2022</div> <div>RB- Rev Rose Broadstock; AB- Past. Annette Buckley; ME- Rev Deac Meg Evans;</div>				1	2
9.30am Partnership Service (Tylden – tbc)					10am Prayers at Gisborne	
<b>3</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.30am Tylden ME	2.30pm Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation		9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton	
<b>10</b>	11	12	13	14	15	16
9.30am Gisborne AB 10am Metcalfe RB	2.30pm Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation	10am Muffin 'n' More Gisborne – Top 10 Hymns 10.30am Christian Life Studies Carlsruhe	9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	
<b>17</b>	18	19	20	21	22	23
9.30am Kyneton AB	2.30pm Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation		9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton	*PIP items due tomorrow please
<b>24</b>	25	26	27	28	29	30
9.30am Romsey RB	2.30pm Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation		9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek 10am Ministers Munch Redesdale ME		10am Prayers at Gisborne	

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

- Held weekly at Romsey Uniting Church Meeting Room

Please find below a short history from Stephen Holgate, our Christian Meditation facilitator.

We meet weekly on Mondays at 5.30pm in the Romsey Uniting Church Hall meeting room.

We are a small ecumenical group, some members travel from Sunbury, Gisborne and Woodend, all are welcome.

Annette and I have been a part of the Romsey meditation group for some time but it was closed over Covid and now it has a new home in our church hall meeting Room.

Please contact Stephen for further information or please just come.

Parking is available in our church grounds

Jenny Elliot

In the early 1990s, two 'youngish' Romsey couples began meeting weekly in each other's homes for meditation, in a practice aligned with the *World Community for Christian Meditation*. This quickly developed into a small group of long-term committed meditators, which has continued over thirty years to the present day, meeting for many years in the Catholic church and now in the Uniting Church Hall. One of the original members, Stephen Holgate, has been both Victoria and National Coordinator of the *WCCM Australia*. He explains, "the roots of the WCCM lie in the desert tradition of early Christianity dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century and beyond to scriptural times. Its recovery and promotion for the modern era was led particularly by John Main (1926-1982), an Irish Benedictine monk who, in 1975, started the first Christian Meditation Centre in London. This blossomed into the WCCM which now supports thousands of small groups throughout the world and in Australia."

The WCCM is an independent body and is not focused primarily on doctrine, but on teaching an ancient, simple, silent prayer practice aiming to bring the meditator into an interior harmony with the prayer of Jesus already present in the human 'heart'. A typical 45-minute weekly group meeting includes a short, recorded talk from the WCCM, a period of silent meditation, followed by a concluding prayer and perhaps some light conversation.

The Romsey group meets on Mondays at 5.30pm in the Uniting Church Hall, Pohlman St, Romsey. There is no charge. Further information: Stephen Holgate 0411781695 [smaholgate@bigpond.com](mailto:smaholgate@bigpond.com) or websites [www.wccmaustralia.org.au](http://www.wccmaustralia.org.au) and [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)



We are uniquely different to and from each other, with strengths and weaknesses to be dealt with during our lives.

Love the differences in our spouses, neighbours, and friends rather than wasting time trying to change each other.

Carl Rogers said: "When I walk on the beach to watch the sunset, I do not call out, 'A little more orange over to the right please', or 'Would you mind giving us less purple in the back?' No, enjoy the always different sunsets as they are. We do well to do the same with people we love."

### Reflection:

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples. If you love one another."*

John 13:34

[www.victas.uca.org.au/resources](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/resources) | Photo by freepik.com | July 2022

## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Gifts, major donations & trusts – help the work of the Church today

Gifts can take many forms, including cash, shares, real or things such as valuable paintings. Some people choose to establish a trust which commences during their lifetime, others choose to establish a testamentary gift (bequest) in their will, others as a memorial to a loved one.

**Want to know more?**

Speak to your solicitor or financial advisor, or visit the Synod's website:

[www.victas.uca.org.au](http://www.victas.uca.org.au)

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## WANDERING CAMELS CHRISTIAN LIFE STUDIES

- Northern Congregations

July will see the re-introduction of Christian Life studies, which will once again be held at the Carlsruhe Truck stop roadhouse and will mainly be a sharing style study, looking at the following:

- 1/ How do we live a Christian life?
- 2/ Sharing our Christian life experiences
- 3/ What strengths do we share as we walk with the Holy Spirit?
- 4/ Sharing our hopes for our future
- 5/ Which weaknesses does our faith help us overcome?
- 6/ Sharing our Stories of day-to-day life as disciples of Jesus

Christian Life Studies will commence at about 10.30am and conclude around midday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of July.

As our Ministry team shrinks again there may be no leader, we become a band of Wandering Camels in the Desert, relying on the Holy Spirit to lead & guide us through and to bring and keep us together in prayer and sharing of our Christian Life together.





# 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
<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, 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)					
<u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

**Next Partnership in Print** will be out at the end of July and I will be needing any articles, stories, photos by **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. Thank you to all those who contributed generously to this edition Please write to me at [zumstein@mmnet.com.au](mailto:zumstein@mmnet.com.au) or you can pop something in the post or my letterbox, or call – I'm happy to take notes over the phone too.

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

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