

Partnership in Print



The magazine of the Macedon Ranges Uniting Church Partnership

Barfold - Gisborne - Kyneton - Lancefield - Metcalfe - Mia Mia - Mount Macedon - Riddells Creek - Romsey - Sutton Grange - Tylden - Woodend

Issue No 7 - February 2016

Seasons - Transfiguration, Ash Wednesday & Lent 1-3



Transfiguration - The Icon of Theophanes the Greek (late 14th Century)



Transfiguration

I know it's a cliché, but doesn't the year pass quickly?! One minute it's the end of footy and netball season, then it is cricket and tennis (and soccer and swimming, I guess). Then it is so quickly back to footy and netball again.

In church terms, we go very quickly from Advent, to New Year and Epiphany and then Lent and Easter.

Nestled in there just before Lent we focus on the Transfiguration. This signals the story of encounter with God, and is perhaps less about how Jesus is transfigured and more about how we are transformed by our encounter with Jesus.

The Transfiguration Sunday lectionary readings remind us that our priorities are set by our proximity to God. Firstly we must be in relationship with God which is the defining first step. Then we embody God's priorities of justice and love and inclusion, God's priority for the marginalised and dispossessed.

What happens when we come down the mount from this encounter, this re-orientation? How do people see that we have been with Jesus? How does the encounter change us?

Encounter with Jesus is not always blinding light. But sometimes it is and when it is, when God is revealed to us, all is exposed and we are tempted to find something to use as a veil. But we are clearly reminded that where the Spirit is there is freedom. Freedom to be ourselves and freedom to be authentic and transparent.

What does this story of encounter mean for the Partnership churches? To proclaim the Reign of God in our context we constantly re-evaluate our loyalties and practices and decisions, in the light of the wellbeing of all of God's people which is uppermost in our minds. As we continue to seek out God's purpose for us in the midst of this wonderful dream of a venture together, we make our priority one of relationship with God and with one another. Then we are able to reset our priorities in the light of God's desires, God's purposes and agenda. Sounds easy doesn't it?

We start this new year of ministry as the Partnership enters its next phase. We pray for the leading of the Spirit who brings us freedom and encourages us to listen and follow closely. I am aware of those precious Partnership Spirit-filled moments as I move around the congregations. The honour of taking communion to someone which has been provided by a different congregation, the sharing of resources and such good will....all are signs of listening for the Spirit and fitting our agenda to God's. What a privilege it is to serve alongside such open, hospitable and caring people across the Partnership. This is how I know we have been with Jesus.

Wendy Elson

Around the Partnership

Worship Leaders

	Service time	Sunday 7th February	Sunday 14th February	Sunday 21st February	Sunday 28th February
Sutton Grange	11am				Judy Rigby
Mia Mia	11am			Judy Rigby	
Barfold	11am	Wendy Elson - HC			
Metcalfe	11am		TBA		
Kyneton	9am	Wendy Elson - HC	TBA	Judy Rigby	Judy Rigby
Lancefield	10:30am	Worship Team	Robert Renton - HC	Maureen Postma	Lyn Bromage
Romsey	9am				
Tylden	9am	Robert Renton - HC	Judy Rigby	Jan Cole	Bronwyn Hewitt
Mt Macedon	10:30am	Meg Evans - HC	Max Woolcock - HC	Robert Renton	Ann Key
Riddells Creek	see page 5				
Gisborne	9:30am	Paul Gilbertson	Janet Wood	Shirley Midgley	D'Arcy Wood - HC
Woodend	6pm tea 7pm worship		Monday 15th Feb at Manse		Monday 29th Feb at Manse

Tylden

Afternoon Fellowship

Tylden Afternoon Fellowship meets on **Tuesday 2nd February** at 10am at Tylden Uniting Church.

Church Council

Tylden Church Council will meet on **Sunday 14th February** following the church service.

Woodend/Tylden

Op-Shop

Tylden/Woodend Op Shop Meeting **Wednesday 10th February** at 10:30am at Tylden Uniting Church. All Op-Shop Volunteers are invited to attend and voice opinions/suggestions.

Cluster Council

Tylden/Woodend Cluster council meets on **Wednesday 17th February** at 7:30pm at Tylden Uniting Church.

General

CoCo

The first Co-ordinating Council meeting for the year is on **Saturday 13th February** at Barfold commencing at 9:30am.

Gisborne

Share a Pancake

We shall be holding our Share Appeal Pancake Day cook-off on **Saturday 6th February** from 9:30 - 12:30 outside the Gisborne IGA supermarket.

Ash Wednesday

To mark the beginning of Lent, there will be a short Partnership service in the Gisborne church on **Wednesday 10th February** at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

Peter Barcham Memorial Lecture

How is your brain? Most people, as they get older, feel their brain isn't working as well as it once did. Do we all decline, at varying rates, in brain function?

Scientists are now questioning that this is so. Research suggests that our brains can continue to learn and develop well into our older years. Exercising the brain, learning new skills, interacting with other people and keeping healthy will all help. This is the theme of this year's Peter Barcham Memorial Lecture, to be delivered by Jenny Byrnes, Head of Pilgrim Theological College at the University of Melbourne. She has entitled her lecture "Brain Matters: Life, Faith and Neuroscience".

The lecture will be at the Gisborne Uniting Church, Brantome St on **Monday 29th February** at 7:30 pm.

Question-time and supper will follow the lecture. Admission is free. Further information from Janet or D'Arcy Wood, 5428 3040.

UC Fellowship

It was decided to commence our Fellowship year with a visit to BUDA Historic Home and Garden at Castlemaine.

We will need volunteers with cars to drive. The entry price for a guided tour of the house and garden is \$9 per person. You can also browse the nursery and gift shop.

Should we require afternoon tea, there is a cost for Devonshire Tea of \$12 per person.

As we are required to notify BUDA of our numbers and also our intention to go by 1st February, there will be a sheet on the morning tea table this week and next for you to register your interest. Should there be insufficient interest, we will abandon the idea. Please speak to Bev or Maree if you have any queries.

Kyneton

Garage Sale

@ St Andrew's Uniting Church
54 Ebdon St, Kyneton
Saturday 13th February
8:30am - 12:30pm
UC Pancake Stall



10am - 12:30pm
Inquiries: 5422 1205 & 5422 3828

Mt Macedon

Thistle Club

Our first meeting is on **Wednesday 24th February** at 2pm at the Church and it will be "Commitment and Catch Up"

Riddells Creek UC update

A bit has been happening while we have all been enjoying the Christmas and Holiday season here at Riddell.

The 2nd January saw our congregation conduct both an AGM and a Church Council Meeting, the primary purpose being to get some structure back in our lives and also to formally decide what we will be doing in 2016. The meeting was well represented by the great majority of our congregation as well as Wendy taking some time out of her Saturday to come and support us in our deliberations.

As well as addressing the usual reports and finance stuff, we conducted the vote to issue a call for Hannah Dungan. We also discussed the building works that have taken place in the church, voted on the building works to be undertaken in the back hall in preparation for it to become the office for both Peter Cannon and the Macedon Ranges Partnership secretary Bronwyn. The move to turn the hall into one of the region's administrative hubs was warmly welcomed by all.

As of last Monday, these building works have started with the interior of the hall being completely gutted of plaster and furnishings. An assessment of the building's structure is being undertaken and repairs to structure, roofing and electrical installations are now being addressed. Once this has been completed, the building will be completely insulated, which it wasn't before, and be re-plastered and repainted. In addition to these necessary maintenance items, the existing toilet wall has been moved to make the it wheelchair friendly. The existing kitchen facilities have been retained, however, additional power points, reverse cycle split system air-conditioning, hot water to the toilet have all been added to Partnership in Print February 2016

improve the buildings functionality as an office / meeting facility.

The final discussion point for our church council meeting was what were we going to do as a congregation during the year 2016. It was decided that we would have an "Event" each month to fall sometime during the second week of each month. These "Events" would be something that we would both like to do as a congregation that could also help to engage both our Riddells Creek community but also other members of our Partnership group.

The first two "Events" for the year are:

Wednesday 10th February - 12 Noon

A Pancake lunch at the RCUC.

(give us a quick ring if you intend coming to help with catering).

&

Thursday 17th March - 5pm

(a late St.Patrick's Day)

Bring and share a Green Meal, dress accordingly etc., green colouring will be available.

Dates, locations and topics for subsequent "Events" to follow these two initial examples will be decided at our Pancake lunch in Feb. It is intended to inform everyone of coming "Events" 2 months in advance so that this information can be extensively advertised to anyone interested well before time.

This year will be a time of reflection and development about how the Riddells Creek UC community and facility will be transformed into something new, something different led by the creative juices of both the Ministerial Team and interested members of the wider Macedon Ranges Partnership, the needs of our community and most importantly, how God wants it to relate to the communities around us.

David Liebich

Romsey

Church Council/Elders

The first meeting for Romsey Elders/Church Councillors is on **Wednesday 3rd February** at 7:30pm in the meeting room.

Pancake Tea

Following the success of last year's informal Pancake Tea it is on again.

Tuesday 9th February at 6pm at the church. See information sheet at the church for what needs to be brought.

UCAF

The first meeting for Romsey UCAF is on **Wednesday 10th February** at 1:30pm in the meeting room.

Lancefield

Classical Music for Pleasure

Our fortnightly Classical Music program recommences in February 2016. 2-4pm **Tuesdays**.

2nd & 16th February & 1st, 15th & 29th March

Romsey & Lancefield

Worship Team

The Lancefield & Romsey Worship Team meet at 7:30pm on **Tuesday 16th February**, at Lancefield Church.

We would welcome new members to the team.

Wider Church

Shaping a 21st century Church

The major Strategic Review has listened, reflected, discerned and discussed. We've moved through understanding to preparing and planning for change. Before the first steps are taken in shaping our Synod for the 21c, we are out on the road again with information sessions across Victoria and Tasmania.

Here is your opportunity to hear and provide feedback on the vision and plans of the Major Strategic Review. Everyone is invited to join us to discuss the findings of the Review and explore the possible changes for the Church.

Monday 15th February 2016

at Hoppers Crossing - 6:30pm for 7pm start

Please RSVP to help us plan and cater. email msr@victas.uca.org.au

Further information can be obtained from Merryn Rowlands, MSR Program Administrator, 9251 5479 or email Merryn.Rowlands@victas.uca.org.au

Chaplaincy at

Gisborne Secondary College

Firstly, thank you very much to everyone who supported our fundraising last year. We managed to raise \$80,148.00 which was \$4,274.00 over our quota which was an awesome result. The Churches contributed a fantastic \$14,024, the Community donations which included GREAT (Gisborne Region Events and Tourism), Bendigo Bank, Lions, & Rotary were \$15,122, the Shire \$2,585, and the Committee raised \$17,273. The School contributed \$25,143 and our Regional Support Manager obtained a grant of \$6,000. I think I can safely say this is the most I have seen raised in my 13 years on the Committee.

This year our quota is \$76,256 of which the school will contribute \$14,000 as they are receiving the \$6,000 grant from our RSM this year, so we are up for \$56,256.00 which will be a huge task.

We look forward to your continued support.

If anyone would like to put their name on a list to help at a sausage sizzle at Bunnings during the year I can be contacted on 0417028605 or sbtacey@bigppond.com

Thank you.

Bronwyn Tacey, Secretary, GSC Chaplaincy

CoCo Report

Report compiled from the CoCo meeting on 12th December.

Wendy Elson will be on leave for the majority of February. So please contact Judy Rigby after the first week in February if you require a minister.

The fifth Sunday, 31st January 2016, church services will be held in the "old" clusters. Services will be held at Gisborne at 10am led by Robert Renton and at Romsey at 9:30am led by Wendy Elson.

A reminder was given that on days of Extreme and Code Red Fire Danger rating in either the Central or North Central Fire Districts, no church services or activities will take place within the Macedon Ranges Partnership. This is a policy passed on from Synod.

Election of office bearers:

All Coordinating Council members have been returned to CoCo by their respective congregations for the 2016 year, except David Noble (Lancefield) and David Todd (Woodend) who have retired.

Chairperson:	Colin Chapman	Deputy Chairperson:	Ursina Smale
Secretary:	Bronwyn Hewitt	Minute Secretary:	Ursina Smale
Treasurer:	Paul Gilbertson	Finance Committee:	Lyn Ward, Bronwyn Hewitt, Colin Chapman, Paul Gilbertson & Robert Renton

CoCo Calendar for 2016 Meetings of CoCo will be held monthly during 2016.

January	9th	No Meeting	
February	13th	Barfold	
March	12th	Mount Macedon	Open meeting (long weekend)
April	9th	Riddells Creek	Followed by 'Safe Churches' meeting (school holidays)
May	14th	Sutton Grange	
June	11th	Gisborne	(long weekend)
July	9th	Lancefield	Open Meeting (school holidays)
August	13th	Metcalfe	
September	10th	Woodend	
October	8th	Tylden	
November	12th	Romsey	Open Meeting
December	10th	Kyneton	Lunch Meeting Vote for new members

5th Sunday Services

January	31st	Worship in 'old clusters'
May	29th	Progressive Church Service'

Reports

Finance - Paul Gilbertson, Treasurer of CoCo has requested that a full annual reports be presented at the February meeting, instead of the usual quarterly report, by all congregations.

Website - David Liebich gave an update report on the website progress. Initial face page with congregational pages are available and open for comment. The final look of the website will be available, up and running by mid-January.

Wendy Elson provided a written report – some excerpts follow

I have been doing a lot of services, several each Sunday as well as some in aged care and Partnership in Print February 2016

around the Manse table. Sadly some are funerals and memorials, which were very special times to share with families and bring the community together to grieve and celebrate. The Partnership Combined Service was a highlight with so many people from across the Partnership sharing together and so much goodwill. It had a real anticipatory atmosphere, and not just due to Advent.

I spent several days visiting around Lancefield and getting to know folk and really enjoyed another music afternoon out there. The Romsey group have included me in their planning meetings for "Follow the Star". Promoting this event has generated some interaction with local schools.

I have attended lots of break ups including the Woodend Op Shop morning tea, the Mt Macedon Thistle Club AGM and luncheon, the Riddells Creek Craft Group Luncheon and the afternoon tea with the Tylden UCAF.

We had a great evening discussing the MR Conversations program and I am interested to see where this leads us. I helped celebrate some special events such as a wonderful 30th Wedding Anniversary. I attended a Labor Party function, the climate action walk and the opening of the War Memorial garden at Kyneton Secondary College. Singing with the Gisborne Singers is also a delight and we are carolling in several aged care settings.

It has been important to keep abreast of the different ministers collegial groups as well as committees such as school chaplaincy. Our involvement has been enhanced with Judy's help (as well as several congregation members) but this will work more effectively when we can share this as a broader team.

I look forward to more time in the church/community role in the future. There has been a lot to do and to be involved in and I have had great pleasure in this. Many thanks to you all for your care and support.

Judy Rigby provided a written report

In the last month I have led services at Mia Mia, Tylden and Mount Macedon and participated in the combined partnership gathering on 29 November. In liaison with Wendy, I have continued to follow up pastoral needs with visitation and/or phone calls as appropriate.

I represented the Kyneton church at a meeting of the Kyneton Combined Churches (KCC) in which a program of four combined events to be held in 2016 was agreed upon.

I attended the Woodend-Tylden Op Shop morning tea, an annual event to express appreciation to local community services. I congratulate the managers and volunteers of the Op Shop on the obvious good will and esteem in which their work is held.

In the week 30 November to 5 December, I attended a silent Advent retreat.

My vision for the next two months is to continue to offer pastoral care and support where needed, to continue to prepare for Advent and Christmas services, to attend several events being held in various places throughout the Advent season and to lead services where desired across the partnership. I have been advised by Robert Renton that Presbytery has extended the supply position as per CoCo's request.

Finally, I wish to thank you for the warmth and hospitality with which I've been received in every place I've been and to note that I've also been on the receiving end of warm hospitality from church members across the partnership.

Picnic in the Park

We at Mt Macedon were thrilled that 72 members of the Partnership gathered in Stanley Park on the first Sunday in Advent. Wendy led us in a very meaningful service to start us on our Advent journey. We thank you for the work that went into this service – including the sewing of the Advent Calendar. Also a big thank you to Lyndon Broadstock and Ruth Hodgson for providing the music and David Liebich for the amplification. The offering of \$473 (excluding envelopes) was forwarded to Kyneton Community Care and they were thrilled with such a generous contribution to their work with those in need in the Macedon Ranges. (See page 16 for additional report)

MR Conversations Program

It is interesting to watch how this discussion is unfolding. Some participants who expected this would have no real value to them have found it has developed in ways they did not expect. For some, the awareness of the program has led to a development of natural conversation into something much deeper and more significant value. For Tylden, the development of another program has the facility to co-exist with the idea of deep listening in partnership with the local school. The program is relevant to this but will look quite different in this context. This may lead on to other responsive groups, such as after school workshops, but they will listen to what emerges. Some participants are finding that current programs are utilising the deep listening notion in different ways. Thistle club at Mt Macedon is made up largely of people from outside the church and it is really growing as people find connection and a sense of belonging here. Riddells Creek craft group is the same. It is not so much a group that is advertised but growth happens naturally as people invite others to come along. I wonder whether it would perhaps be possible to ask our questions of concern and compassion at these groups or whether they would be perceived as intrusive.

Romsey reported that the Shire are doing Kitchen Table Conversations in their area. These participants also had the opportunity to develop a natural conversation which developed from their Probus meeting and have listened deeply also in their walking group. Lack of infrastructure in a growing and developing area is the main concern emerging from these Conversations. Lack of aged care facilities means people need to leave their own community as they age. Lack of transport has highlighted the issues of removing the rail infrastructure in past years and there is a lack of medical care. Family life is busy with many parents working.

Woodend participants held an invitational get together of people on the edges of Church such as past attendees. They discussed the “village” notion of caring and compassion for one another. They talked about reconciliation programs, about involvement with RAR and VCCE fire recovery. They wondered how it would look if once per month they held their church service down at BUPA Aged Care.

The idea of a women’s group like the one mentioned at Presbytery called “Eve” was discussed as everyone was enjoying sitting around the table and actually holding a MR Conversation. The idea of wine was suggested for next time. “Eve” is a get-together for women held each month.

Those towns with op-shops felt that MR Conversations has an interesting relevance there as it is really all about connecting with others. There are around 130 helpers in Kyneton and Woodend working in this context. This led to a discussion on volunteerism and its importance in developing

a sense of belonging. When church is mentioned people say things like “I am not religious but... if you ever need a hand with anything...”

This led to a discussion on the Partnership and how much more facility we have to do things across the region. For example, some places are unable to cater for funerals but other churches find this to be their strength. How can we develop this so that the strength of each church supports the challenges of another? What things do we think can be achieved Partnership wide that we wouldn't have dreamed about otherwise. Perhaps the notion of a social enterprise café. Or storage development for RAR furniture etc.

Sammy stamp is being conducted in the Macedon Ranges Partnership. If your congregation does not collect stamps they can be forwarded to the Gisborne, or Romsey congregations who work with this project.

D'Arcy reported on the refugee network meeting. The next meeting is to be held at Gladstone Park on February 19th 2016. D'Arcy will put a report in Partnership in Print. The suggestion was made that a sub-group could be set up in the Macedon Ranges with the Northern Suburbs. This is something the Macedon Ranges Partnership can think about.

Reports and announcements from congregations:

- **Northern** – The wedding of two of their parishioners has taken place. It was a lovely day.
- **Kyneton** – The Church is in good spirits.
- **Tylden** – The church have received a letter asking them to support the Tylden Primary school by providing two people each Wednesday to help in the Stephanie Alexander garden and the cookery program.
- **Woodend** – Wendy Elson wants to run an Op Shop church service for them in each town to celebrate the volunteers' contributions to the community.
- **Lancefield** – Saying farewell to the Noble family who are returning to Melbourne. They are recognising two local families who have been long term foster families by supplying them with Christmas hampers. They will be celebrating 150 years of worship during 2016.
- **Romsey** – Is looking at completing maintenance on their hall to refurbish it during 2016. Exterior painting commencing before Christmas.
- **Mount Macedon** – The congregation enjoyed the Church service and picnic held recently at Stanley Park.
- **Riddells Creek** – .There have been renovations taking place on the building with repairs to the roof, new downpipes, and painting inside. They also need to discuss the agreement to house the CoCo office at Riddells Creek Uniting church. They have a strong desire to worship together again as a community. They are to hold meetings to discuss what format this will take and how they will operate during 2016. Possibly one service per month.
- **Gisborne** – The building renovations are proceeding well. The façade and outside are now complete except for some lighting. The carpark has been completed. Interior work has started. They need to complete painting, and replace carpet. They then hope to have a dedication service in February or March 2016.

Introducing the Northern Group of Churches

The Northern Churches consists of four independent churches who even though we work together and have a common thread, serve distinct communities. These churches are the Barfold Union Church, Metcalfe, Mia Mia and Sutton Grange Uniting Churches.

We provide mission to four different, rural, marginalised communities and hospitality to all people. All of the church buildings are available for approved public activities.

Services rotate around the churches so each congregation have service per month.

A very important time in our churches is morning tea before church as this gives us time to discuss pastoral needs, organisational matters and just general discussion between members on current happenings whether local or outside our area. All members are encouraged to contribute to the organization of our churches. We also encourage our members to provide comments during church services.

Membership

Our membership consists of people who live in our communities and also those that work away during the week.

Our members come from many diverse backgrounds which makes for some very interesting discussions. Attendees are becoming older. Although some people have left, our numbers have remained stable due to new members joining us.

The attendance at church is usually 8 to 16. Some members travel to all churches and some attend only their local church.

Recently two of our members, Brian and Cherry were married in true Scottish style in the Mia Mia Church complete with kilts and piper.

Since joining Macedon Ranges Partnership, we have become much more positive about our future and this is being reflected in our churches and members.

Marge Townrow & Dot Smith



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	1	2 10am - Tylden Afternoon Fellowship 2-4pm - Lancefield Classical Music
7 Transfiguration 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Barfold	8	9 Shrove Tuesday 6pm - Pancake Tea at Romsey
14 Lent 1 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne 10am - Tylden Church Council 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Metcalfe	15	16 2-4pm - Lancefield Classical Music 7:30pm - Romsey/Lancefield Worship Team
21 Lent 2 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Mia Mia	22	23
28 Lent 3 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Sutton Grange	29 7:30pm - Peter Barcham Memorial lecture	

Appreciate each day

The following are quotes from people who realised that life is a fleeting commodity.

1. Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on for my Psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile."
2. Today, after I watched my dog get run over by a car, I sat on the side of the road holding him and

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 7:30pm - Romsey Elders/ Church Council	4	5	6 9:30am - 12:30pm - Gis- borne Pancakes
10 Ash Wednesday 10:30am - OpShop meeting 12noon - Pancake lunch at Riddells Creek 1:30pm - Romsey UCAF 7:30pm - Service at Gisborne	11	12	13 8:30am - 12:30pm - Kyneton Garage Sale & Pancakes 9:30am - CoCo meeting at Barfold Hall
17 7:30pm - Tylden/Wood- end Cluster meeting	18	19 Refuge Network meeting	20
24 2pm - Mt Macedon Thistle Club	25	26	27

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crying. And just before he died, he licked the tears off my face.

3. Today at 7 am I woke up feeling ill, but decided I needed the money, so I went into work. At 3 pm I got laid off. On my drive home I got a flat tire. When I went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat too. A man in a BMW pulled over, gave me a ride, we chatted, and then he offered me a job. I start tomorrow.

(continued on page 17)



Follow the Christmas Star

A special time was had over 2 nights in the Christmas week in Romsey. There was a disappointing attendance on the first evening but was more than made up for on the second evening when 92 people joined in.





The donkey and the other animals were a great hit. Many thanks to Sally from Parklands Farm in Gisborne for bringing her donkey, kids, lambs, ducks and dogs over the 2 nights. They were all so well behaved.

We also appreciated the Kyneton Band for accompanying us on our walk, providing music

during and after the walk.

Thanks also to the 2 families who agreed to be Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the stable. It was special to have a real baby on both nights.

Christine Clow from Gisborne Church of Christ, deserves the biggest thanks for her organisation skills and for sourcing people and costumes.



5th Sunday Combined Service at Stanley Park Mt Macedon, 29th November 2015



It was a lovely service and a great deal of imagination was shown by our worship leader, Wendy Elson

She began by reading out a letter to Mr Curly from Vasco Pyjamas. This made us all smile and set the tone for an enjoyable service of worship. We had an Advent

Calendar of fabric with large square holes in it. Members of the congregation put their heads through on certain days and read out some relevant passages. Then gift bags were hung on the Calendar and people who chose a bag had a bible reading to do. This made us feel involved.

The nearby birds joined in too, – magpies and little twittering birds. It was a delightful setting.

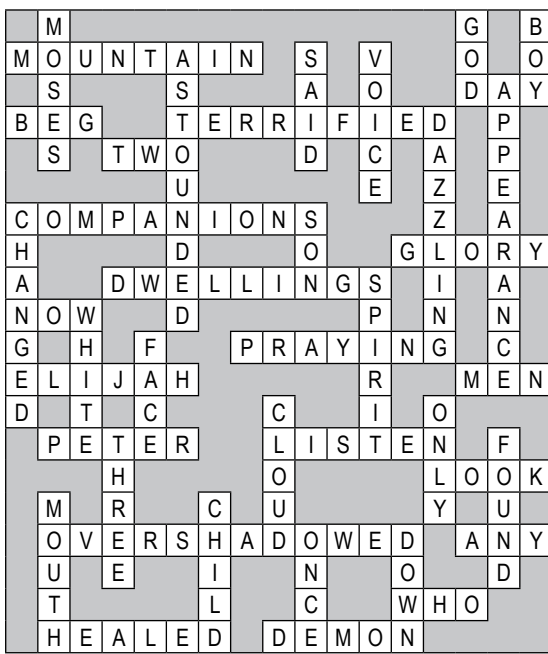
Wendy Hebbard

Puzzle Answers

Additional Words

a. Moses, Elijah b. Mountain c. Cloud
d. Son. Note - The words 'Men' & 'Beg' can swapped as can 'Moses' and 'Found'.

- Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving he said, "I hope you feel better soon."
- Today, I asked my mentor, a very successful business man in his 70's, what his top three tips are for success were. He smiled and said, "Read something no one else is reading, think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing."



Lectionary Readings Year C

After Epiphany

A period in which the church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. The Baptism of the Lord is the first Sunday of this period. The Transfiguration of the Lord is the Sunday. The length varies depending on the date of Easter.

Date	Day/Season	Co-lour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
7th Feb	Transfiguration	W	Exodus 34:29-35	99	2 Corinthians 3:12 to 4:2	Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

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.

Date	Day/Season	Co-lour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
10th 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
14th Feb	Lent 1	P	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
21st Feb	Lent 2	P	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	27	Philippians 3:17 to 4:1	Luke 13:31-35
28th Feb	Lent 3	P	Isaiah 55:1-9	63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9

Transfiguration Icons

from - <https://iconreader.wordpress.com/2011/08/06/transfiguration-icon-the-event-and-the-process/>

The earliest surviving image of the Transfiguration is from St Catherine's monastery in Sinai, a place which, because of its seclusion, is home to many early icons. In the apse of the catholicon there is a mosaic of the Transfiguration, dating from the middle of the sixth century.



St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai (c. 565 A.D)

Christ is the centre and focus of the image, his hand held in a blessing, eyes directed at us. His clothes are depicted "white as light" as the Gospel writers describe, and the glory of God overshadowing the scene is shown by the mandorla around his body. From His body, shafts of light are shown striking each of the five others present: to Christ's right, the Prophet Elijah; to His left Moses; scattered about His feet, the Apostles John, Peter, and James.

The mosaic captures the drama of the event: the three Apostles on their faces in confusion, whilst Christ stands serenely in the centre above them, flanked by Moses and Elijah, who appear to be blessing Him. All subsequent icons of the Transfiguration vary little from this basic composition.

The mountain on which the Transfiguration took place is identified by St Jerome as Mount Tabor. The mountain plays an important part in divine revelation, as described by Scriptures, and links Moses and Elijah who are miraculously present by Christ's side. Moses ascended Mt Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments and converse

with God in a great cloud of divine glory (Ex. 24:12-18; Ex. 33:11-23; 34:4-6,8). Elijah was told to ascend Mt Horeb (probably an alternative name for Sinai) where he heard the voice of God in the "gentle breeze".

In the Biblical account as well as in icons, these two conversers with God are now shown in conversation with Christ Himself, a clear indication to Jesus' divinity. Icons further interpret their presence, following the words of the Church Fathers, by showing Moses holding a book: representing the Torah. Elijah, in animal skins reminiscent of John the Baptist represents the prophets, while Moses represents the Law. Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of both.

The Icon of Theophanes the Greek (pictured on the front cover)

Theophanes the Greek (ca 1340 – ca 1410) was one of the greatest iconographers in Muscovite Russia. He moved from Constantinople to Novgorod in 1370, and from there to Moscow in 1395. Theophanes was described by his contemporaries in Moscow as being "learned in philosophy," and he was accomplished in bringing the teachings of the Holy Fathers on the Transfiguration into his own icon of the subject. The geometry of the image emphasizes the serenity of Christ compared with the ordered disarray of the Apostles: Peter reaching out a hand as though in the middle of his sentence: "Lord it is good for us to be here..." (Matt 17:4)

Theophanes' bold icon is divided in two: Christ and the Apostles on Mt Tabor, whilst Moses and Elijah are removed to separate, but adjacent, peaks.

Theophanes was not the first iconographer to do this: the mountains of Tabor and Sinai/Horeb are different and so it was already common to depict Moses and Elijah standing on different peaks, leaning in toward Christ. What Theophanes em-

phasizes though, is the distinction between the two Old Testament saints on the one hand, and the Apostles of Christ on the other. Through three beams of light, he draws the three Apostles, and us, into the dazzling light that surrounds Jesus. By doing so, Theophanes is presenting us with the already ancient teaching that the Transfiguration was not only an event for us to witness, but a process that we should ourselves partake in.

The Event and the Process of Transfiguration

In the Gospels, the Transfiguration comes just six days after Christ's long discourse on the the End of the World, the Last Judgment and the Second Coming of Christ. Christ finishes His words with the promise: "there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom". The Transfiguration, then, is the realization of Jesus' promise, and so what the Apostles experience is a foretaste of the future life – "the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ", according to St Peter.

In Theophanes' Icon of the Transfiguration, for perhaps the first time in an icon, the ascent and descent of Mt Tabor is shown. This is an important part of the event: Christ did not suddenly transfigure Himself amid His disciples while preaching in Galilee. Instead, Christ chose three of His disciples, He led them up the mountain "to pray", and there they beheld the future glory of God in the present.

Yet after the ascent came the descent. No one could experience such divine glory for a sustained time in this life: it is the promise of the Future Life. What is shown in the icon is that such an experience is for all of us. The geometry of Theophanes' icon, which draws us into the scene, does not do so that we may observe it, but as an exhortation for us to experience it too.

We too must ascend the spiritual mountain – and there are enough writings from the Desert Fathers on what this spiritual ascent consists of. And at the summit, in prayer, those shafts of di- Partnership in Print February 2016

vine light can penetrate us too.

In later icons, the Apostles are shown in the same "ordered disarray" of the first Sinai mosaic, but their facial expressions are changed from fearful to sleepy. This follows Luke's account, where it describes the Apostles being woken from a heavy slumber to witness the Transfiguration; it is this weariness that explains their inability to understand the significance of the event, and the conversation between Christ and the Old Testament saints regarding His future Crucifixion. There too is a lesson: along with the spiritual assent, and prayer, watchfulness is needed. When Elijah heard God on Mt Horeb, it was not in the roaring wind, earthquake, or fire, but in the overwhelming silence. What could he have heard if he had been inattentive? What can we gain from God if we are inattentive?

Did you know?

The Uniting Church has 3 Icon schools with about 50 active members. The first school began in 1995, and the enterprise has grown steadily ever since. One school meets on the first Saturday of each month, another on the first Monday of each month, and the third on the second Wednesday of each month. They meet in the hall at Auburn UC.

Beginners do not need any prior artistic skill or experience, just patience. Participants are free to choose the icons they paint once they have completed their first exercise.

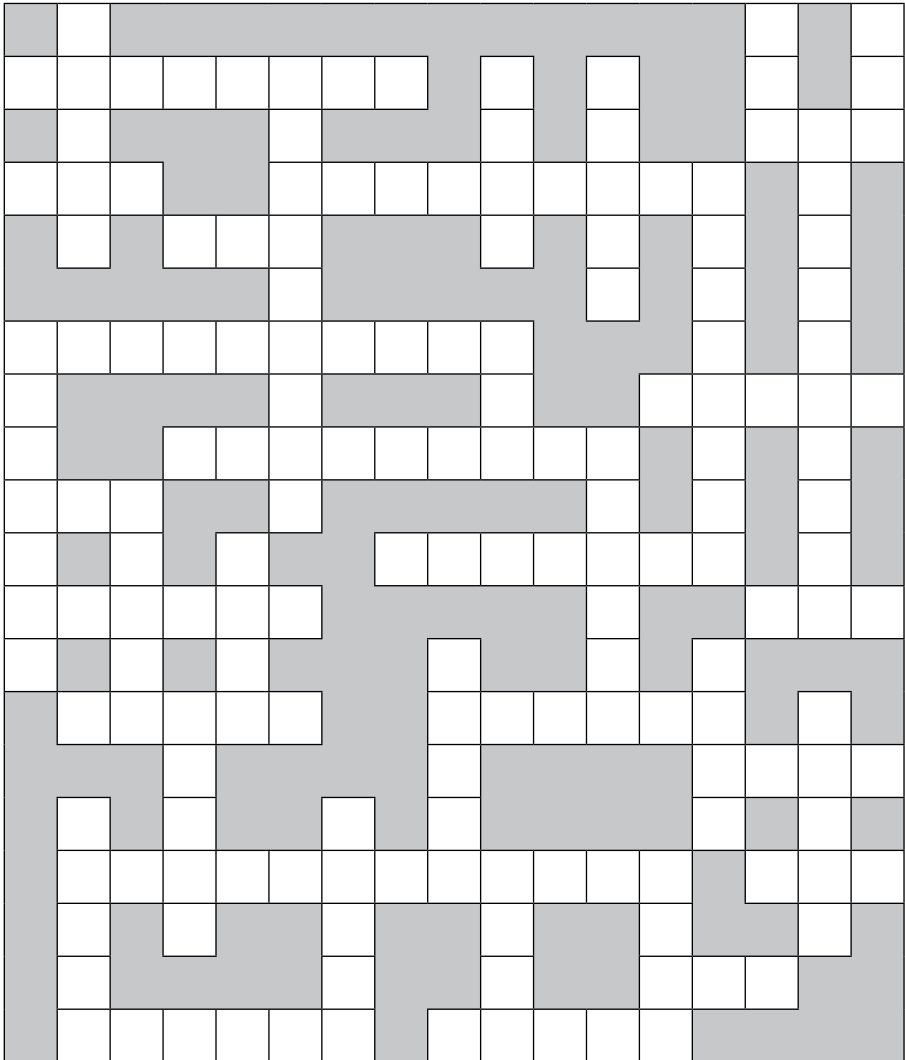
The co-ordinator of the schools is Rev Dr Rob Gallacher, who has studied iconography overseas, and who has been painting icons for 25 years. Dr Gallacher frequently speaks at meetings of interested groups around Melbourne and supplies icons to churches who want to use them in worship. Commissions are welcomed and icons are sold.

Website for UC Icon school <<https://iconexhibition.wordpress.com/about-the-school/>>

Transfiguration Sunday - Transfiguration & Healing of child - Wordfit

Luke 9:28-43a

This puzzle was created using the New Revised Standard Version from the above reading from Luke. To complete this puzzle you will first need to read the bible passage. Next use the clues on the next page to complete the wordlist. (If you are using a different version to NRSV you will need to check the answers to the wordlist as some of the words differ between versions.) Once you have a complete list you will then need to work out how to fit the words into the grid like a crossword. (Hint - find the longest words and start with them.)



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T - Tylden, W - Woodend, MtM - Mount Macedon, RC - Riddells Creek, G - Gisborne, P - Presbytery

Wordlist

3 letters	4 Letters	5 Letters	6 Letters	9 Letters
Any	Down	Child	Healed	Astounded
Beg	Face	Demon	Listen	Dwellings
Boy	Look	Found	Spirit	Terrified
Day	Once	Glory	_____	
God	Only	Mouth		10 Letters
Men	Said	Peter	7 Letters	Appearance
Now		Three	Changed	Companions
Two		Voice	Praying	
Who		White		12 Letters
_____		_____	8 Letters	Overshadowed
		_____	Dazzling	

Clues to Additional Words (add to list above)

- The two men seen with Jesus. (5,6)
- Where did they go to pray? (8)
- What hid them from view? (5)
- The man asked Jesus to heal his _____? (3)

Answer on page 17
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<u>WOODEND</u>		
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