

Partnership in Print

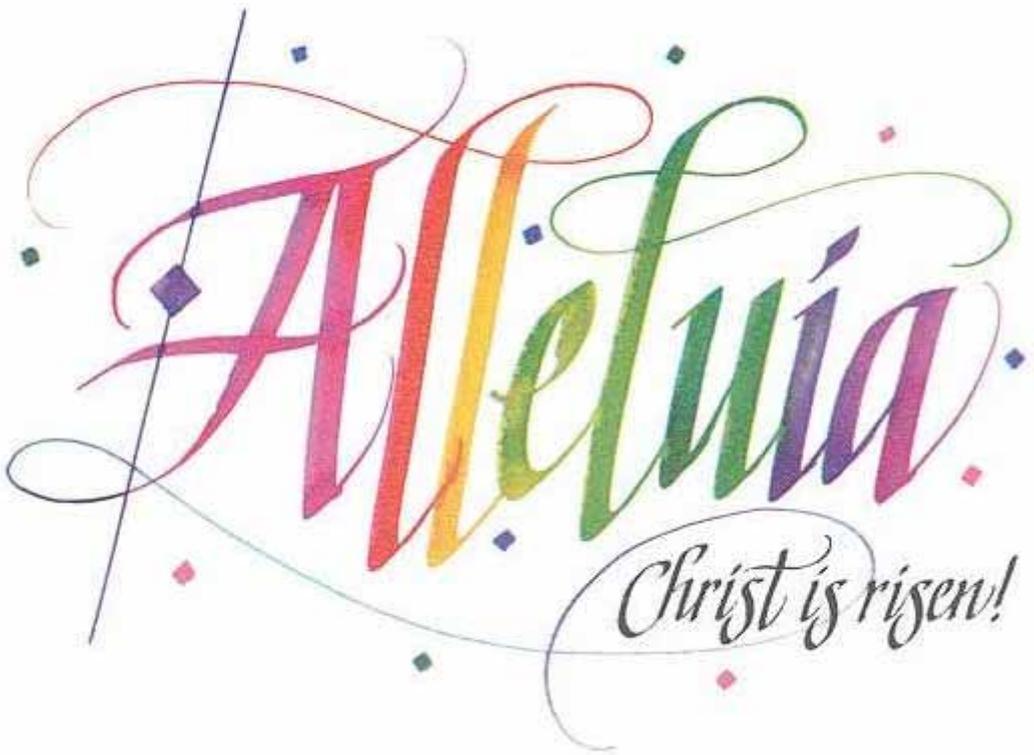


The magazine of the Macedon Ranges Uniting Church Partnership

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

Issue No 9 - April 2016

Season - Easter 2-5





‘Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us,
be a crimson-cressed east.’

The Wreck of the Deutschland by Gerard Manley Hopkins

The *Deutschland* was a ship that ran aground on a shoal 25 miles off the coast of England in 1875. Waves battered it for 30 hours before any rescue attempt was made and, adding insult to injury, men from nearby towns looted the wreckage, taking anything of value, including stealing jewellery and valuables from the bodies of the deceased.

Among the dead were 5 Franciscan nuns who had fled persecution in Germany and were on their way to the United States. Hopkins dedicated his poem to them with this inscription: *To the happy memory of five Franciscan Nuns exiles by the Falk Laws drowned between midnight and morning of Dec. 7th. 1875.*

Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-cressed east comes towards the end of what is a long poem. It’s the line that has captured the imaginations of writers and people of faith ever since because Hopkins, speaking on behalf of the British people who let the tragedy happen, asks one of the nuns to ‘remember us’ as she enters into heaven to be with the risen Christ before referencing and perhaps challenging our understanding of Easter.

Under Hopkins’s pen, ‘Easter’ is no longer a noun, able to be relegated to a long-ago event. Rather, ‘easter’ becomes a verb in the present-continuous tense, something that continues to transform our present lives, to give us new life, and to offer us hope of what will happen when the risen Christ enters our lives.

This line of the poem becomes a prayer. Let Easter get into us. Let Easter come and live where we live. Let Easter permeate our souls. Let Easter expose the dimness in us and shine its light into our darkest corners.

As I write this, we are about to enter holy week. When you read this, we will have rehearsed again the story of Christ’s passion, entered into the darkness and touched something of the suffering and the sorrow. We will have heard Christ’s incredulity that Judas would betray him with such an intimate gesture as a kiss, witnessed his anguish in the garden and felt his sense of utter forsakenness at the hands of God. And then, all too quickly, we will have celebrated Easter Sunday and the resurrection. The gravity, horror and darkness of the passion story will be behind us.

In the Easter season, we celebrate the saving work of God in Christ as finished. We are a forgiven people, loved by God and in this, we rejoice. But, let us also add Gerard Manly Hopkins’s beautiful prayer to our Easter celebration: *Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-cressed east.*

I rarely witness dayspring, even if I’m up early enough, because I don’t have any east-facing win-

dows that give me an unobstructed view of the horizon. When I first became acquainted with this poem, I was at Queenscliff on a prayer retreat and I made it my business to get up early and walk the beach in order to witness dayspring so that I could put an image to this prayer. I have always loved sunrises, but what I noticed on that occasion was the way in which the sky lightened and the sand and sea took on tinges of pink before I saw the crimson crest.

As we let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-cressed east, let us acknowledge the dim places, particularly at the communal and political levels of our lives, and let us long for, pray for and look for the ways into which light creeps in, the dayspring potential for a brand new, resurrection day.

Judy Rigby

Editor - The 35 verse poem is available on <<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/173668>>

Around the Partnership

Services & Worship Leaders

	Service time	Sunday 3rd April	Sunday 10th April	Sunday 17th April	Sunday 24th April
Sutton Grange	11am				Andrea Strack
Mia Mia	11am			D'Arcy Wood - HC	
Barfold	11am	Judy Rigby			
Metcalfe	11am		PiP Elston		
Kyneton	9am	Judy Rigby	PiP Elston	D'Arcy Wood - HC	Andrea Strack
Lancefield	10:30am	Wendy Elson	Jay Brooks - HC	TBC	Bruce Hill
Romsey	9am				
Tylden	9am	D'Arcy Wood	Judy Rigby	Wendy Elson	Bronwyn Hewitt
Woodend					
Mt Macedon	10:30am	Max Woolcock	Wendy Elson - HC	Janet Wood	D'Arcy Wood
Riddells Creek					
Gisborne	9:30am		D'Arcy Wood		Judy Rigby - HC

Worship Co-ordinator's

There will be a meeting of all congregational worship co-ordinator's at Kyneton UC at 7pm on **Wednesday 30th March**.

JNC

A Joint Nominating Committee meeting has been called for **Wednesday 6th April** at 7:30pm at Riddells Creek UC.

If your usual delegates are not available can you please send alternates.

Lay Preachers' Association 2016 Annual Conference

The Annual Conference and AGM of the Lay Preachers' Association of the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania

**Friday 15th April 7-9pm and
Saturday 16th April 9am - 4pm**

at the Centre for Theology and Ministry, College Cres, Parkville.

Who may attend - Lay Preachers, LP Candidates, other Worship Leaders, and interested people.

Speakers

Rev Joan Fisher – will consider 'The Holy Land – ancient stones & living stones.'

Rev Dr Avril Hannah Jones - will speak on 'Using your passions in worship'.

Cheryl Lawrie - Accredited Youth Worker with Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

Jill Ruzbacky – Social Justice Officer with Synod Justice and International Mission unit.

Cost - \$28 includes refreshments and lunch to be paid on arrival on Saturday.

To register email or write to Sec Synod LP Assoc c/- 3 Chifley St Wodonga Vic 3690 or lpasecretary@victas.uca.org.au before 7th April with name, contact details and dietary requirements.

CoCo & Safe Church Training

The next meeting of CoCo is on **Saturday 9th April** at Riddells Creek commencing at 9:30am. BYO lunch if you are staying on for the 'Safe Church' training at 1pm. Each congregation is required by Synod to have one or more people attend this training. Participation in Safe Church training is a requirement for Safe Church Recognition. Please make sure your congregation is represented if your CoCo reps are not able to attend.

Presbytery Meeting

The next meeting of the Port Philip West Presbytery is on **Saturday 16th April**. Is your congregation represented?

Mt Macedon

Men's Group

The men's group meets on Monday 4th April.

Thistle Club

We meet at 2pm on **Wednesday 30th March** for a Garden High Tea at Lorraine's home (23 Governors Drive, Mt.Macedon)..

Item for Shoeboxes – Soft pencil cases, Pencil Sharpeners etc. Devotions: Anne Fyfield.

On **Wednesday 27th April** we are going on a trip to Euroa. Meet at the church at 9am ready to car pool. Morning tea will be at Nagambie where we will see Black Caviar's statue. Then on to Euroa to see statues of local VC winners and the historic town. Lunch at hotel in Euroa. Partners are welcome.

Lancefield

Classical Music for Pleasure

Our fortnightly Classical Music program continues 2-4pm **Tuesdays, 12th & 26th April**.

Romsey & Lancefield

Worship Team Planning

The Romsey and Lancefield Worship Team is seeking new members to help plan and lead worship. Our next meeting will be in the Romsey vestry at 7:30pm on **Thursday 31st March**. Peter Cannon will be meeting with us to explore options. Now would be a great time to come on-board.

The April meeting will be in the Lancefield vestry 7:30pm on **Tuesday 26th April**.

Romsey

Church Council

Meeting time TBA. Our meeting time needs to be reorganised due to the JNC meeting clashing with our normal time.

Social Evening

Tuesday 19th April from 6pm at the church. Bring your meat for a BBQ and accompaniments to share.

UCAF

We will meet at the church at 12noon on **Wednesday 13th April** to explore the 2016 Bible Society focus on South Africa with film and food. Please see Jeni to collect South African recipe to prepare.

Sunday @ 6

Sunday @ 6 is back starting 6pm **Sunday 17th April**. Soup and bread rolls at 6pm followed by worship

Kyneton

Garage Sale

St Andrews, Uniting Church
Ebden St. Kyneton
Saturday 14th May
from 8:30am until 12:30pm
All Welcome

Tylden

Car Boot Sale Success

On Monday 14th March Tylden UC held their annual car boot sale. Once again it was very well supported by the community with a variety of stalls including plants, homemade bread, scented candles and olive oil along side many more traditional trash and treasure stalls. The church ran a cake and produce stall, gift stall, raffle, BBQ and devonshire tea. People came from far and wide – we met 2 couples from Kangaroo Flat UC who had come along for a day out and to support our car boot sale. Overall it was a very successful and enjoyable day.

UCAF

Tylden UCAF meet on **Tuesday 5th April**.

THE PROTEUS ENSEMBLE presents CHAMBER MUSIC WITH A TWIST

The musicians will present a variety of music from traditional cultures to contemporary works for voice and a diverse range of instruments.

at

TYLDEN UNITING CHURCH
Tylden Trentham Rd
Tylden

Sunday 1st May

2:30pm

Followed by afternoon tea.

Adults - \$15

Concession - \$10

Students - \$5

Proceeds to Kyneton community care.

Riddells Creek

The community garden at Riddells Creek, along with the rest of us, was feeling the heat. Fortunately with the upgrade to the office area, we now have water close by. Instead of bucketing the gardens we have the luxury of a hose directly watering which has made a large difference to the health of our plants.

The leeks have reached maturity and are ready to pick. Our tomatoes, which came as donated seedlings, are ripening wonderfully and the strawberries are looking strong. Unfortunately the birds are winning the race to pick any strawberry that looks like ripening. We are continuing to receive donations, with the latest crops planted being planted are silver beet, mint, parsley and celeriac.

The shed we bought through the Simpson Bequest last year has been erected. This will house gardening tools for church members. With the same colouring as the garden beds, the shed blends in with the rest of the garden.

We have now planted white iceberg standard roses with an underplanting of colourful, drought resistant succulents in the flower garden. With hose on tap, we are able to look after the fruit trees donated by Bunnings.

Everyone feel free to come in, water, weed, pick the vegetables or plant donated seedlings.

Barry and Marg Tarrant

Did you know?

In January this year, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby announced that he had been in discussions with the Catholic, Coptic and Orthodox leaders over a fixed date for Easter, and that he hoped it would happen within the next five to ten years. Welby has suggested that Easter be fixed on either second or third Sunday of April (relative to the Gregorian calendar). This proposal remains to be approved, especially by Eastern churches which currently determine Easter using the Julian calendar.

Gisborne

Prayer Meetings

Prayer Group meets twice weekly on Tuesdays at 2pm and Fridays at 10am and following Sunday morning service.

Church Library

Our church library is in the process of re-building. We would like to know what kind of books and other resources (DVDs, etc.) would be most helpful to you: e.g. worship resources, devotional resources, Bible commentaries, moral and social issues, the Uniting Church, biographies.

If you have a comment, please speak to Gwynne, Janet or D'Arcy.



The new face of Gisborne UC

Open Day at Gisborne

On **Saturday 16th April** Gisborne Uniting Church will be open between 10am and 12noon to anyone who wants to pop in to look at our renovations. We are hoping that the local community will wander through and invitations have been sent to past members, Ministers and anyone with a connection to the Church. We certainly hope that Macedon Ranges Partnership will also come along, have a cup of tea or coffee with us and possibly stay to the short service of rededication at 12noon. We would love to see you all.

Glennis Speed

Partnership Office Dedication

Riddells Creek UC

Thursday 17th March 2016

Last Thursday evening saw a number of us including Peter, Wendy and Judy, members of CoCo, and members of a number of Partnership congregations gather together at Riddell to participate in the dedication of the recently renovated, finished the day before, Partnership Office located in the hall at the rear of the Riddell Church. The reason behind this timing was that Peter was eager to move into his new digs, and the Riddell congregation and others were meeting together that evening to share in a green accented St Patrick's Day tea.

The hall renovations came about through a request from CoCo to establish an office in the southern end of the ranges for Peter Cannon to use as his base of operations. Peter lives in Sunbury and needed some locally based base of operations from which to call his office. It was decided to request from the Riddell Congregation that we use their back hall for just such an office. This was a great idea and well received by the Riddell Church Council, however, considerable work needed to be carried out before it could be classed as a half decent office from which Peter could work. It had been some years since it had had regular use. However, we were all excited at the prospect of it being re-invented as an administration office / meeting room and were keen to make it possible to be completely renovated.

The works officially started back in



mid February when the entire building was completely gutted back to a bear frame. That's when the fun started, numerous water leaks, some we knew about, some we didn't, poor building principles used when initially built, no insulation, and a leaking roof. Just a few surprises that had to be fixed. Steve from IYD Constructions, a local Riddell builder and carpenter, was the main contractor responsible for the project, and he could see some serious pressure being brought to bear on our initial budget. Then there was the desire to install a new window in the east wall, more budget pressure! Luckily we found a suitable aluminium window, right colour, in good nick at the Sunbury Tip Shop for the princely sum of \$15, ahhhhhhhh!, not the major blowout we thought it might be. We then removed the roof off the rear-most hall, cleaned out all the native inhabitants and their belongings, laid down some insulation and reinstalled the roof. All went well until the wind sprung up. We then decided to increase the size of the toilet to accommodate those confined to a wheel chair, which then necessitated moving the main access sliding door approx. 300mm. Nothing was ever simple. However, the end result was definitely worth the effort.

Fast forward to last Thursday night, everything was freshly painted, completely new plaster throughout, which definitely looks far more secure than the previous ceiling. New bathroom/toilet, more spacious, new basin etc, new floor, plaster and a good lick of paint, and everyone was pleasantly surprised how well it came up,



all thanks to Steve and his constant craving for perfection.

In all it has been a great project which has resulted in a facility that people can work in with pride, conduct church business in a pleasant, professional but also a quiet, inviting and reflective environment. It has also now been decided that Bronwyn, our CoCo secretary will also utilise this space as her base of operations for three days a week. We now have a far more flexible and inviting environment in the newly renovated hall and recently refurbished church building in which to share one on one time with anyone that needs it right through to a useful meeting space for both large and smaller groups. Add to that numerous church meetings and activities, and our facility could be buzzing with new found life and activity.

The ministerial group has not even waited until the paint was dry before opening the hall to a regular Thursday morning meditation and reflection get together, which I accidentally walked into last Thursday on my way to make a few finishing touches before the evenings activities. After waking to a busy and crazy morning, it was a wonderful surprise to be invited into this circle of peace, prayer and reflection. Every day should be started like this. For those interested, it is held every Thursday morning at 9am I believe and all are welcome. If the group gets too big, we will just adjourn to the church.

Thanks must be given to the congregation at Riddell, who took a big step in faith to commit to the cost and commitment in this project and to Steve and his team of great tradesmen who have transformed a once sad and uninviting room into the direct opposite, therefore effort and vision have created a place that will be well used by our Lord to help meet the needs of our partnership but also provide a great place of outreach and mission to the surrounding communities we are seeking to reach and serve.

David Liebich



Office Dedication

The Macedon Ranges UCA partnership office has been officially commissioned.

On a very warm Thursday afternoon we shared together in the even more warm hospitality of the Riddells Creek folk over a St Patrick's day dinner.

During the service, symbols were used to represent our availability, our hospitality and our service to the community, to one another, to the Partnership and to God. The eucalypt scent of the Ranges infused our worship, representing the presence of the Holy Spirit with us.



After offering sincere thanks to those who had worked toward making the office into functional, workable space, we asked a blessing and commissioned it for use.

Every Thursday morning we will begin our ministry team meetings at 9am with worship and a cuppa together. You are very welcome to attend as we are keen to make this an open worship event.

May our office be a place of great blessing to all!

Wendy Elson

The Coordinating Council met at Mt Macedon for an open meeting on Saturday 12th March. Colin Chapman welcomed guests, explained the outline for the meeting and asked them to feel free to contribute to today's discussions.

Reports

The Office at Riddells Creek

The Office is almost completed. We are waiting on a desktop to be fitted into the building, which will give space for four people to work. The telephone and internet still need to be connected to the building. We shall erect a letterbox at the front of the church/office, 3 Sutherland Road, Riddells Creek. The plan is to have the office open 5 days per week eventually. Rev Peter Cannon will use the office as his main base within the Macedon Ranges Partnership.

Minister's Reports

Wendy Elson

It was lovely to have two weeks of leave in February and just mooch around Tasmania on the motorcycle. We enjoyed lovely weather for the most part, and have come back quite refreshed.

In the few weeks I have been back from leave I have taken several services. It was a pleasure last week to spend time with the Lancefield community as we dedicated their garden for the use of the kinder community. It was lovely to have the children come out and blow us some bubbles to say thanks. I felt quite honoured to dedicate different aspects of the garden to two special people who have really contributed to the community and the church. Charlie Smith has a plaque on the bench seat and Colleen O'Connor has a plaque on the shady olive tree.

It was an inspiring experience to meet with

Gisborne Secondary College's Year 11 girls and some of their mentors and role-models over a Women's Day breakfast this week.

Special thanks to the Gisborne congregation it has been lovely to be in the beautifully refurbished church for several special celebrations lately, not least the induction of Peter and the Barcham lecture.

It has been wonderful to begin the next phase of the journey of the new ministry team. With the office about to kick off and the start of regular team meetings there is a lot to which we look forward as well as making the best use of the office and bringing more life to Riddell's Creek through being a partnership hub.

It has been lovely to begin to form a team with other Woodend clergy, as we put together the World Day of Prayer event and have undertaken the planning for several other events.

I have had the pleasure of singing with the Gisborne Singers and loved being able to sing at Lancefield 'Relay for Life' this last weekend.

I am doing some Victorian Council of Churches Emergency Chaplaincy training.

I am also delighted to be graduating my Masters Degree.

In coming days I am very keen to look more towards how I can partner with our congregations to listen and respond to our communities.

Peter Cannon

As I have moved around and listened to various people in differing situations, I have seen evidence of the moving of the Spirit among us. I have heard people share dreams for their community, open up about visions of

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April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
3 Easter 2 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Barfold	4 ? - Mt Macedon Mens' Group	5 ? - Tylden UCAF 2pm - Gisborne Prayer Group
10 Easter 3 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne & AGM 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Metcalfe	11	12 2pm - Lancefield Clasical Music 2pm - Gisborne Prayer Group
17 Easter 4 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Mia Mia 6pm - Sunday@6 at Romsey	18	19 2pm - Gisborne Prayer Group 6pm - Romsey Social Evening
24 Easter 5 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Sutton Grange	25 Anzac Day	26 2pm - Lancefield Clasical Music 2pm - Gisborne Prayer Group 7:30pm - Romsey & Lancefield Worship Team

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group	2 End of Daylight Saving tonight Change your clock 1 hour backwards
6 7:30pm - JNC at Riddells Creek	7	8 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group	9 9:30am - CoCo at Riddells Creek 1pm - Safe Church Training
13 12noon - Romsey UCAF	14	15 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group 7pm - Lay Preachers' Conference	16 9pm - Lay Preachers' Conference 10am - Gisborne Open Day ? - PPW Presbytery meeting
20	21	22 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group	23
27 9am - Mt Macedon Thistle Club Euroa outing	28	29 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group	30

what could be and exploring the possibility that God is moving and active in and through them. Sometimes we are so used to hearing of others stories of faith and grace we forget that God is with us. But I see God moving and working and it is exciting to be called to share in your journey.

My primary focus at this early stage of my ministry among you is to listen and to pay attention. I need to listen to the congregations and the various expressions in each. I need to listen to the community of the Partnership. I need to listen to my ministry colleagues. And I need to listen to God.

I am delighted with the wisdom I have witnessed in my colleagues as they seek to walk the tightrope of the needs of our Partnership. There is passion and drive yet sensitivity and compassion for the needs they have encountered. It is a privilege to be part of such a team.

My specific focus over the last few weeks has been to simply meet some of the people from each of the congregations. I have done this but there are so many more to catch up with and this will continue to be a primary focus. The welcome I have received has been warm.

I have also met with the worship coordinators to begin the conversation of how I may resource the worship life of our Partnership.

In this light I also met with several of the worship leaders from Gisborne and the conversation was wide ranging. Never the less we were able to explore the implications of Fresh Expressions in terms of the way we do mission and subsequently develop worship out of that context. We were also able to begin discussion of a wide range of worship styles and practices. There was a clear excitement about exploring worship from many perspectives.

At the worship coordinators meeting, I was requested to send out some material each week that may assist worship leaders/preachers in their preparation. I have started doing this but I am already thinking that for this to be useful, I will need to do it earlier than requested. This will necessitate some adjustment to the way I have done my preparation.

I would like to acknowledge the welcome and support provided to me by both Wendy and Judy as I try to find my way. The conversations we have had to date really highlight for me how much it is a breath of fresh air to work as a team. We work differently but the respect and shared passion for ministry with them is a blessing and delight. Thanks be to God.

Judy Rigby

In the last month I have led five services in four different churches: Kyneton, Tylden, Mia Mia and Sutton Grange. I have also participated in a funeral service held at Gisborne and the World Day of Prayer service in Kyneton. I attended the worship coordinator's meeting, the Peter Barcham Lecture, Rev Peter Cannon's induction service and the Mission Pioneer School held at Hoppers Crossing this week. I also represented the Kyneton church at a meeting of the Kyneton Combined Churches (KCC).

I continue to provide pastoral ministry and support in the form of visitation and/or phone calls as appropriate.

Since Wendy's return from leave, the ministry team has commenced regular meetings and is setting up regular forms of communication, including a shared calendar. The energy arising from this, in conjunction with the development of the office space, is quite tangible.

My vision for the next month is to continue to offer pastoral care and support where need-

ed and to prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

Minister's Days Off

Rev Peter Cannon and Rev Deacon Wendy Elson wish to take off Friday & Saturday each week, except for occasions such as CoCo and Presbytery. Presently this time is covered by Judy Rigby.

Supply

Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood will be employed as supply minister to cover Rev Peter Cannon's extended sick leave which commences on 1st April.

Bits and Pieces

Fire Danger Days

Further discussion was held with a re-visit of our response to the decision we had made about days of Extreme and Code Red fire danger. Directions from Synod are to be sought and distributed to all congregations. Each congregation should have its own fire plan to follow. Given the large area that the Macedon Ranges Partnership covers and difference in terrain, size of town and fire rating district it was felt that the decision should be with each congregation. Notification of closure should be displayed clearly on buildings. CoCo combined events will be cancelled on days of Severe & Code Red Fire danger days.

Updated Database for Ministers

A reminder was given that the Ministers are calling for an updated Database for their use. Thank you to the churches that have sent theirs to the Secretary.

Copy of Church Council Minutes

Another reminder was given that the ministers have requested that copies of all Church Council minutes be forwarded to CoCo Secretary to be stored at Riddells Creek Office. Thank you to those who have forwarded these so far but please remember to keep

forwarding them as soon as possible after each meeting.

Resources

Rev Peter Cannon would like to see a catalogue of resources within the Macedon Ranges Partnership. This would include CD's, books etc.

Gisborne congregation has a large, well-stocked, modern library resource which is available to the Macedon Ranges Partnership.

Copyright

Paul Gilbertson suggested that we try and combine subscriptions for the Macedon Ranges Partnership, so there is only one license per resource purchased to help reduce costs.

Website

Colin Chapman said the website is well on the way to being ready for use. There are just a few congregations that still need to forward their information to the website designer.

- Pip Elston commented that Kyneton congregation has doubled in size since Wendy Elson and Judy Rigby have been working in the Macedon Ranges Partnership.
- Progressive Church Service – will be held on Sunday 29th May 2016.
- Report on Asylum Seekers Network meeting was given by Rev. Dr. D'Arcy Wood. The Northern Suburbs of Port Phillip West Presbytery are planning to hold monthly meetings at Gladstone Park. The next meeting is about mid-April. This group meets to discuss issues and is asking for other congregational members to join them.
- A meeting is to be held on 11th April 2016 at Hoppers Crossing. This is to brief Treasurers on how to fill in the online survey.

Next Meeting Saturday 9th April at Riddells Creek followed by Safe Church Training. BYO lunch.

Synod Working With Children Policy

Important changes to the Working with Children Check/Registration requirements and Synod Policy

The new synod Working With Children Check/Registration Policy and a letter with information about implementing the policy will be sent to Church Councils and ministers in the next week. Please keep an eye out for it. For further information and assistance, email WWCC@victas.uca.org.au or contact Josh Wollett, Safe Church Educator, on 03 9340 8810.

Please carefully read the WWCC/R policy and the accompanying letter and ensure your Church Council, and all who work with children, act quickly to put in place a process to meet both the policy and legislated requirements.

The synod is committed to ensuring that children who participate in Uniting Church activities, programs and events within the synod of Victoria and Tasmania are safe and led by adults who have obtained either a positive Working with Children Check (Victoria and NSW) or a Working with Children Registration (Tasmania) as required by relevant state government legislation.

The new Working with Children Check/Registration Policy (WWCC/R) www.victas.uca.org.au/wwcc was approved by the Synod Standing Committee at its meeting on 12 February 2016. This supersedes any previous synod Working with Children Check policy.

The most significant and notable difference to new the WWCC/R requirements is the broadening of who now requires a check to remain active in congregational leadership. This includes, but is not limited to all Ministers and Pastors, Lay Preachers, Elders, Church Councillors, worship leaders, anyone commissioned by the Church Council to perform a leadership role, music lead-

ers, organists and Bible study leaders as well as all those involved in programs with children and young people.

Presbytery Asylum Seeker Statement

At the last Presbytery meeting on Saturday 27th February, it was agreed that the following information should be sent to all congregations in our Presbytery.

“Mr Norman Warren (0418 560 254: margnormwarren@bigpond.com) spoke of the recently established Northern Suburbs Asylum Seeker Network. It is a network in support of churches and community groups willing to assist asylum seekers to be recognised and supported in their efforts to assimilate into the northern suburbs of Melbourne, as well as those determined by government not to have rights to live in our community yet agree to keep them living under bridging visas while not permitting them the standard of living all Australians take for granted. We recognise the need Australia-wide and have a responsive ear to other churches and organisations working with asylum seekers with the intention to support and encourage them as a network of like-minded people.

The Rev. Dr Adam McIntosh spoke to the following statement, and it was resolved:

2016/16 To affirm the following statement as a Presbytery and to issue it to all UCA congregations across Port Phillip West Presbytery.

As many of you are aware, Uniting Church congregations, agencies and schools across Australia are standing in solidarity with 267 people who are seeking refuge in our country. Our highest priority is the welfare and human need of these asylum seekers particularly children. Many church members have joined with people across Australia in a campaign to “let them stay”.

The President of the Uniting Church, Stuart Mc-Millan, has issued a pastoral letter calling on prayerful support of the 267 asylum seekers and the “let them stay” campaign.

A number of Uniting Church congregations are also offering their church building as a place of ‘sanctuary’ to these asylum seekers. This includes Uniting Church members across our Presbytery of Port Phillip West. There are also many other ways that church members are supporting asylum seekers across our Presbytery including the asylum seeker network.

The legality of the church building as a place of ‘sanctuary’ is unclear, and the people who have taken this step, do so after much struggle and prayerful reflection.

As the Presbytery of Port Phillip West, we are committed to joining in with God’s mission. This mission includes offering sanctuary, care, protection and hospitality to the persecuted, asylum seekers, our neighbours, prisoners and the marginalized, as we witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ and risk persecution for the sake of the Gospel.

The Presbytery of Port Phillip West stands in solidarity with our Uniting Church members who, as an act of following Jesus, are offering their church building as a sanctuary and supporting asylum seekers in different ways. We call on Uniting Church members across Port Phillip West to pray for and, if needed, offer practical support to those who are offering sanctuary to asylum seekers across the Presbytery of Port Phillip West.”

Gisborne have a double DVD of the Lecture which is available for borrowing.

If you know anyone who would be interested to view the Lecture, please see Janet or D’Arcy. (Eventually the DVDs will be added to the Library.)

Brain Matters

lecture by Rev Dr Jenny Byrne, Executive Director of Pilgrim Theological College, Parkville.

“We learn from Neuro-Science to help our individual development – using our intuitive abilities,” Dr Byrne began.

Her lecture continued with a simplified and comprehensible explanation of the areas of the brain, using diagrams.

“People will be in their mid-twenties before they can fully understand the consequences of their actions. With many young people there is no effective ‘braking.’”

Much of our brain activity is automated, that is, ‘hard-wired’. This can be over-ridden with effort.

Our Faith is what has been ‘hard-wired’ into us, but we can create new wiring and can keep learning into old age.

In faith, reflection is critical. There are guideposts in knowing what to look for. We need a safe environment, encouraged by praise and affirmation.

With criticism, negative chemicals are released.

Dr Byrne posed a few questions to us -- Is there such a thing as a ‘religious’ brain?

Some of us make different links in our brains. eg; how we see a sunrise.

Is this part of our Soul or Spirit? The organisation of neurons in a brain allow a person to consider things in different ways.

Neuro Science cannot prove or disprove the existence of a soul or a spirit nor the existence of God.

What kind of belief structures are hard-wired into our middle-class Westernised churches?

Conclusion. Christianity can ‘evolve.’

Wendy Hebbard

In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. See website for weekly prayers. <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle/ecumenical-prayer-cycle/#>

Week 13	27 Mar - 2 Apr	China, Hong Kong, Macao
Week 14	3-9 April	Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore
Week 15	10-16 April	East Timor, Indonesia, Philippines
Week 16	17-23 April	Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan
Week 17	24-30 April	Djibouti, Somalia

Port Phillip West Prayer Cycle

Suggested prayer – We pray for Uniting Church Agencies, Congregations and Schools together with the Ministry Agents who serve God in their various placements. We remember today XXX. Lord, guide and bless your work in our Presbytery that it may flourish for the good of the people and for your glory.

April	Location/Position	People
Sun 3rd	Wesley Aged Care and Housing Services (Coburg)	CEO and Staff
Sun 10th	Manor Lakes Uniting Age Well (Wyndham Vale) Kingsville Uniting Age Well	Chaplain Mrs Robyn Tomkins, staff and residents Chaplain Rev Judy Angwin, staff and residents
Sun 17th	Coburg	Rev Robert Humphreys
Sun 24th	Corio-Norlane	Rev Peter Jewell

Lectionary Readings Year C

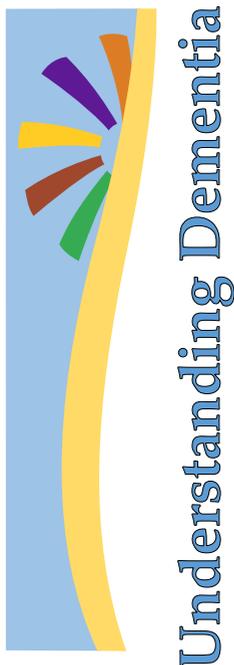
Easter

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Date	Day/Season	Co-lour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Sun 3rd April	Easter 2	W	Acts 5:27-32	118:14-29 or 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
Sun 10th April	Easter 3	W	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)	30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
Sun 17th April	Easter 4	W	Acts 9:36-43	23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
Sun 24th April	Easter 5	W	Acts 11:1-18	148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35

Name	Cong	Email address	Phone/s	Address
Sina Smale	W	sinasmale@gmail.com	0403 495 372 5427 2333	33 High St, Woodend, 3442
Dorothy Smith	N	gunnahdo@activ8.net.au	5423 2635 0439 804 673	30 Cascades Rd, Metcalfe Box 56, Metcalfe, 3448
Glenn Speed	G		5428 3827	
Judy Stammers	L		0437 566 138	
Andrea Strack	K	gstrack@netspace.net.au		
David & Sandra Strack	R	strackhesket@hotmail.com	5427 0472	Boundary Rd, Heskett, 3442
Barbara Talbot	MtM		5428 2215	
Barry & Marg Tarrant	RC	barrytarrant@hotmail.com	5428 7798 0409 212 783	11 Filmer Place, Riddells Creek PO Box 101, Riddells Creek, 3431
Marge Townrow	N	townrow.margery.j@gmail.com	5474 8111	59 Grays Rd, Sutton Grange, 3448
Neil Tweddle	MtM	nettel@inet.net.au	5426 2045	23 Governors Drv, Mt Macedon, 3441
Rita Vandervalk	L	ritavandervalk@outlook.com	5429 1996	9 Hemphill Crt, Lancefield, 3435
Lyn Ward	MtM	peterandlyn@westnet.com.au	5422 2329	PO Box 874, Kyneton, 3444
Jean Wilkie	G		5428 2553	
Michael Woolner	G	michaelwoolner@aapt.net.au	5428 8281	41 The Boulevard, Gisborne, 3437
D'Arcy Wood	G	harold.wood@bigpond.com	5428 3040 0408 542 830	42 Skyline Drive, Gisborne, 3437
Eleanor Wood	G	eleanor.wood@bigpond.com	0408 524 068	
Carl Zumstein	W		0412 138 364	

N - Northern, SG - Sutton Grange, B - Barfold, MM - Mia Mia, M - Metcalfe, K - Kyneton, L - Lancefield, R - Romsey, T - Tylden, W - Woodend, MtM - Mount Macedon, RC - Riddells Creek, G - Gisborne, P - Presbytery



Is Alzheimer's different?
What are the signs? *
 You are invited to a free public information session presented by Alzheimer's Australia and a panel of people dealing with Alzheimer's—carer, sufferer & pastoral carer.

What help is available?
Sufferer? Carer?
Wednesday, 27th April
7.30—9.00pm

Bayswater Uniting Church
 Cnr Mountain Highway & Elm St
 Bayswater

For more information contact:
 Lionel Parrott 9723 3447
 Julie Hawkey 9878 0111
 RSVP (for numbers attending) to
 lionel.parrott@mail.com or above
 phone no.

This session is sponsored by
 the Outer Eastern Mental Health Ministry Reference Group
 of the Uniting Church Presbytery of Yarra Yarra.

Name	Cong	Email address	Phone/s	Address
Jay Brooks	R	jaybrooks@iprimus.com.au	5429 6163 0402 748 605	7 Harvest Close, Romsey, 3434
Lynette Bucknall	RC		5428 6193	400 Gap Rd, Riddells Creek, 3431
Colin Chapman	G	colin.chapman@monash.edu	0417 052 383	
Judy & Brian Charter	MtM	bjcharter@bigpond.com	5428 1354	5 Early St, New Gisborne, 3438
Jeni Clampit	R	jeniferclampit@bigpond.com	5429 5480	17-19 Palmer St, Romsey, 3434
Maree Clarke	G	mclarke22@bigpond.com	5428 3852 0423 051 318	57 Howey St, Gisborne, 3437
Janet Cole	T	melonjam@skymesh.com.au	0413 837 068 5427 1807	880 Falloons Rd, Ashborne, 3442
Jenny Connor	T	connieandfrosty@bigpond.com	5424 8260	
Shirley Cross	MtM		5426 2275	
Rob Dunstan	G		5428 3272	
Jenny Elliott	R		5427 0230	
Pip & Jenny Elston	K	p.j.elston@bigpond.com	5423 7263 0429 406 922 (P) 0408 237 263 (J)	"Balkebah" 1353 Sidonia Rd, Baynton, 3444
Joy Evans	T		5424 8323	
Meg Evans	MtM	marevans@bigpond.com	5428 6493 0439 492 245	7/99A Main Rd, Riddells Creek, 3431
Peter Fraser	L		Unlisted	PO Box 13, Lancefield, 3435
Anne & George Fyfield	MtM	gfyfield1@bigpond.com	5426 2210 0467 076 984	76 Taylors Road, Mt Macedon, 3441
Roy Gibbs	K	gibbshucker@bigpond.com		
Paul & Bev Gilbertson	G	gilbe@hotmail.net.au	5428 2446 0417 877 271	17 Skyline Drive, Gisborne, 3437
Keith Hallett	G		5428 3898	
Wendy Hebbard	G		5428 8574	
Bronwyn Hewitt	T	bhewitt7@hotmail.com	0409 260 397 5424 1657	1074 James Ln, North Black- wood, 3458
Dawn & Max Hinneberg	T	dhinneberg@yahoo.com.au	0417 123 194 5424 8258	33 James Lane, Tylden, 3444
Ian Kennedy	L	aiken@nex.net.au	0412 820 397	229 Red Gap Rd, Lancefield, 3435
Alison Killoh	W	ckilloh@gmail.com	5427 2780	23 Anne Rd, Woodend, 3442
David Liebich	RC	david@inflightgraphics.com.au	5428 6203 0419 339 767	38 Somerville Lane, Riddells Creek, 3431
Jean Lucas	T		5427 1206	
Doug McIver	K	dougmci@bigpond.net.au		
Neil & Linda Moorhouse	G		5428 1996	
Robert Renton	P	robert.renton@bigpond.com	0427 812 606	
George Roberts	W	ghsmroberts@optusnet.com. au	5427 2645 0418 318 892	4 Romsey Road, Woodend, 3442
Noel Shaw	R	geoffrey.shaw1@bigpond.com	5429 5509 0417 351 313	10 Wrixon St, Romsey, 3434

N - Northern, SG - Sutton Grange, B - Barfold, MM - Mia Mia, M - Metcalfe, K - Kyneton, L - Lancefield, R - Romsey,
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Contacts Other Groups

<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> <u>MIA MIA</u> <u>BARFOLD</u> <u>METCALFE</u>	<u>Elders - North</u> Dot Smith Marge Townrow	<u>Elders- Kyneton</u> Pip Elston Helen Aldridge Jenny Elston Peter Stone Doug McIver Andrea Strack
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs	<u>Congregation Secretary</u> Jenny Elston
<u>LANCEFIELD</u>	<u>Elders</u> Peter Fraser, Ian Kennedy, Judy Stammers, Rita Vandervalk	<u>Classical Music Group</u> Ian Kennedy <u>Organist - Rita Vandervalk</u>
<u>ROMSEY</u>	<u>Elders</u> Noel Shaw, David Strack Jeni Clampit, Sandra Strack Jenny Elliott, Jay Brooks	<u>Worship Team Co-ord</u> Jay Brooks <u>UCAF</u> Pres - Hazel Allen Sec - Jeni Clampit
<u>TYLDEN</u>	<u>Elders</u> Shirley Bowen, Joy Evans Max Hinneberg, Jean Lucas	<u>Worship Team Co-Ord</u> Janet Cole
<u>WOODEND</u>		
<u>MT MACEDON</u>	<u>Elders</u> Brian Charter, Anne Fyfield Neil Tweddle Barbara Talbot, Shirley Cross	<u>Thistle Club</u> Pres - Judy Charter Sec - Anne Fyfield <u>Organist - George Fyfield</u>
<u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u>	<u>Elders</u> David Liebich Barry Tarrant Marg Tarrant	<u>Craft Group</u> Lynette Bucknall
<u>GISBORNE</u>	<u>Prayer Ministry/F & C - Glennis Speed</u> <u>Pastoral Care/F & C - Bev Gilbertson</u> <u>Social Justice - Wendy Hebbard</u> <u>Worship & Education - Eleanor Wood</u>	<u>UCAF - Maree Clarke</u> <u>Craft Group - Linda Moorhouse</u> <u>Friends Pizza Night - Jean Wilkie</u>
<u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Finance & Manse Committee</u> Robert Renton - Chair, Paul Gildertson - Treasurer Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman & Bronwyn Hewitt.	<u>Website</u> (In preparation)

Partnership Contact Details

Name	Cong	Email address	Phone/s	Address
Helen Aldridge	K	haldrigd@bigpond.net.au		
Hazel Allen	R		5429 5395	27 Wrixon St, Romsey 3434
Fiona Armour	MtM	secretary@mtmacedon. unitingchurch.org.au	5426 4663 0408 533 030	24 Lansdowne St, Macedon, 3440
Roger Baker	R		5429 5186	2 Gott Crt, Romsey, 3434
Shirley Bowen	T		5427 0220	

Address Label

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Rev Deacon Wendy Eison
Ministers: Ph 5427 2761 or 0400 042 076
elsonwendy@gmail.com

Rev Peter Cannon
Ph 9746 3454 or 0418 570 013
revpeterc@gmail.com

Judy Rigby - Supply

	Chairperson	Secretary	Treasurer	CoCo Reps	Newsletter
SUTTON GRANGE - Church Access Rd					
MIA MIA - Matheson Rd					
BARFOLD - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd	Roy Gibbs	Dot Smith	Finance Committee	Marge Townrow Dot Smith	Pip Elston
METCALFE - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd					
KYNETON - 54 Ebdon St (PO Box 892)					
LANGFIELD - 9 High St	David Noble	Ian Kennedy	Peter Fraser	David Noble, Ian Kennedy	Ian Kennedy
ROMSEY - 25 Pohlman St (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampitt <u>Property</u> - David Strack	Roger Baker	Noel Shaw, Jay Brooks Jeni Clampitt	Jay Brooks
TYDEN - Trentham Rd (c/o Tyden General Store, Tyden, 3444)	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole <u>Property</u> - Max Hinneberg	Dawn Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Janet Cole Dawn Hinneberg	Jenny Connor
WOODEND - 37 Forest St (PO Box 34, Woodend, 3442)		Sina Smale		Sina Smale, George Roberts	Alison Killoh
Mt MACEDON - 684 Mt Macedon Rd	Neil Tweedle	Fiona Armour	Lyn Ward	Anne Fyfield, Lyn Ward Neil Tweedle	Fiona Armour
RIDDELLS CREEK - 3 Sutherlands Rd	David Liebich	Marg Tarrant	Barry Tarrant	David Liebich & Barry Tarrant	Marg Tarrant
GISBORNE - 23 Brantome St	D'Arcy Wood	Colin Chapman <u>Property</u> - Neil Moorhouse, Rob Dunstan	Paul Gilbertson	Colin Chapman, D'Arcy Wood Paul Gilbertson	Michael Woolner
CoCo - (Co-ordinating Council) <u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman		Bronwyn Hewitt Sina Smale - Min Sec	Paul Gilbertson	Editor of <i>Partnership in Print</i> Jay Brooks jaybrooks@primus.com.au	