

# 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 10 - May 2016

Seasons - Easter 6 - Ordinary Sunday 9



# Trinity



## Thinking about the Trinity is not easy is it?

I used to think it was a bit confusing and quietly used to say to myself that the concept we call Trinity is not actually named as such in the Bible anyway. When I came to study about the Trinity, people told me that they had loved the subject but I was a bit sceptical and to be truthful the first half of my unit of study just about did my head in! I was trying to understand it cognitively and the concept of God as Trinity simply eluded me, despite my efforts to wrap my brain around it. The only comfort was that Augustine who did a lot of work on the Trinity also said he didn't really understand it!

Then I stopped trying to understand it at the brain level. Instead I began to sit with this notion at a heart level. This deep mystery that is God in relationship began to speak to me quite differently. When I was trying to understand the nature of God as three persons, three essences, three characters, three beings and got caught up in the age old debates about this, I couldn't understand it. The Trinity is a metaphor to help us see how God operates and is present in our world. Metaphors for God use images of our everyday and help us to make sense of who God is. Val Webb says that all of our thinking and speaking of God is metaphor, for we can never truly say who God is, but rather what God is like. All of our images and concepts are inadequate in the end as we try to name the "hidden one who remains mystery" (Elizabeth Johnson). Rather it is in our lived encounter with God-in-relationship, that we experience God and participate in this intimacy.

God as a triunity of fellowship reveals deep richness and sets a foundation for encounter with God as unity, diversity, mutuality. God dwells in a community of love and is the "origin, mediator and driving force of liberation" (Jurgen Moltmann).

The deep intimacy in the Triune relationship makes it "impossible to see the persons as primary and the relationship as secondary".

Now, the Trinity is still a concept which is at one level, beyond our understanding and I am OK with that. For mystery is a wonderful thing really, that God is so much more than I can ever imagine. It is quite comforting to know that God resists my attempts to fit God into my own understanding. All the same, it is truly amazing to know that I am, and you are, so deeply loved that we are invited into the dance of the Trinitarian God. We are drawn away from the notion of following Christ as something we do or don't do but rather into a radical transformation of our very identity. We participate in the fullness of God and the evidence in our lives is displayed in justice, compassion and mercy (rather than morals, sin management, doctrine and beliefs). We are drawn into relationship with the one who is by very nature, relationship itself.

Hospitality and community are so much a part of this story. We see the common bonds of love in the

Trinity expressed by the bonds of our human lives. This is why we give such witness when we offer true hospitality to others and when we live as a loving community, inviting others to participate in our relationship with God also.

May this Church season where we focus on God as Trinity, allow us to image God in new ways and to explore our identity as participants in the relationship of the Divine.

Jurgen Moltmann, *Jesus as Messiah, The Way of Jesus Christ in Messianic Dimensions*. London: SCM Press, 1990.  
 Elizabeth Johnson, *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*. New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1994.

## Around the Partnership

### Worship Leaders

	Service time	Sunday 1st May	Sunday 8th May	Sunday 15th May	Sunday 22nd May	29th
Sutton Grange	11am				Judy Rigby	5th Sunday Combined Church Crawl
Mia Mia	11am			D'Arcy Wood		
Barfold	11am	Victoria Mackay				
Metcalfe	11am		Doug McIver			
Kyneton	9am	Victoria Mackay	Doug McIver	D'Arcy Wood - HC	Judy Rigby	
Lancefield	10:30am	D'Arcy Wood	Worship Team - HC	Wendy Elson	Wendy Elson	
Romsey	9am					
Tylden	9am	Wendy Elson - HC	Shirley Bowen	Judy Rigby	Bronwyn Hewitt	
Woodend	building not in use at the moment					
Mt Macedon	10:30am	Max Woolcock	Judy Rigby	Max Woolcock	Janet Wood	
Riddells Creek	not worshipping together at present					
Gisborne	9:30am	Judy Rigby	Wendy Elson	Keith Hallett	D'Arcy Wood	

## Sunday 29th May - 5th Sunday Partnership Service Church Crawl

Commencing at **9:30am** at Lancefield UC for an early cuppa and hymn singing.

**10:30am** for 'The Word' at Romsey UC

**11:30am** at Riddells Creek UC for Prayers

Lunch at an establishment in Riddells Creek (TBA)

## Muffins 'n More!

In celebration of its recent renovations, the Unit-ing Church in Gisborne is launching another op-portunity for friendly gatherings of members of the community. We would be very happy to see friends from across the Macedon Ranges part-nership share in this venture.

Muffins 'n More begins on Tuesday May 10th be-tween 10am and 12noon and on every second Tuesday of the month thereafter. Drop in for 15 minutes or 2 hours!

Over a cup of tea or (good) coffee and munch-ing a (home-made) muffin, people of all ages are invited to chat, to swap and to share.

Too much spinach in your garden? Or parley growing wild? Or daffodil bulbs which need a good home? Bring them to share with others. Know something about the best way to prune a pear tree or how to cook pork belly? Come and share your expertise. Or just come!

For more information, contact Wendy Elson or Janet Wood on 5428 3040

## Gisborne / Partnership Library

Gisborne congregation hopes its re-vamped Li-brary will be a resource for the whole Partner-ship. Already a member at the Open Day, not from Gisborne, has borrowed.

And we have 3 significant donations of books from Kyneton:

1. A large Concordance, which will help locate particular Bible verses when preparing worship.
2. A beautifully illustrated history of Church Architecture. (We have other books which could be described as "coffee table" which can be browsed for 5 minutes or an hour.)
3. A very large Mission Praise song book with full music and containing over 1200 songs. Well worth a look!

Our next move is to make a list of all books, recordings, etc. which will be attached to the Partnership website. This is a big job, but our very committed librarian Gwynne Klaassen will undertake it - with some help. Watch this space!

## Gisborne Congregation

The Open Day on Saturday 16 April was very successful. Former members, former ministers, people new to the town turned up - perhaps about 100 in all. The "Gisborne Gazette" took photos. Visitors were impressed with the major renovations recently completed. A new colour brochure advertises the church, and we hope that local groups will want to use the building on a regular basis. A short Service of Re-Dedica-tion concluded the morning's activities. Glennis Speed and her team are to be congratulated on a fine piece of organisation.

Next on the congregation's calendar is the Car Boot Sale on Saturday 23 April. Most of the available car spaces have been booked - on the block next to the church. As with the Open Day, we shall make contact throughout the morning with people in the local community. We hope for fine weather!

The Church Council has begun to address the issues involved in becoming a Safe Church. Much work will be needed in the coming months.

## UCAF

Our Fellowship will host the visit on Monday, May 16th at 1:30pm of Rev Peter Weeks and Daniel Grayson from the Northern Suburbs Asy-lum Seeker Support Network who will speak to us about their visitation program in support of Asylum Seekers who are either in detention at the Melbourne Immigration Transition Accom-modation in Broadmeadows, or living in the Community, and how we can perhaps be of as-sistance. Afternoon tea will follow the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

## Tylden

### **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 Caring Community

## Romsey

### **Vale**

The members of the Romsey Congregation regretfully announce the death on 4th April, of long standing member, Verna Johnston. Verna, who had been Treasurer of the UCAF for over 25 years, will be sorely missed for her dedication, friendship and her cooking.

### **UCAF**

Romsey UCAF will meet on **Wednesday 11th May** at 1:30pm in the meeting room. We will be planning for the June Winter Luncheon.

### **Sunday@6**

**Sunday 15th May** a relaxed meal and worship suitable for all ages. 6-7:30pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

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## Lancefield

### **Classical Music for Pleasure**

Our fortnightly Classical Music program continues 2-4pm **Tuesdays, 10th & 24th May.**

## Romsey & Lancefield

### **Worship Team Planning**

The April meeting will be in the Lancefield vestry 7:30pm on **Tuesday 26th April** to plan worship for Sunday 8th May.

May meeting in the Romsey vestry, 7:30pm on **Tuesday 17th May** to plan worship for Sunday 5th June.

## Mt Macedon

### **Men's Group**

The men's group meets on Tuesday 3rd May at 10am at the church.

### **Thistle club**

On **Wednesday 27th April** we are going on a trip to Euroa. Meet at the church at 9am ready to car pool.

On **Wednesday 25th May** Be prepared to tell us about "Something I've brought back from a holiday". Meet 2pm at the Church.

Shoebboxes: Exercise Books, erasers, chalk etc

## General

### **Worship**

### **Riddells Office**

**@ 9am every Thursday**

### **RM Begg Kyneton**

### **Partnership Service**

**3:30pm Monday 9th May**



## Kyneton & Northern

### 'Everlasting Threads' Fashion Parade

The Mia Mia Kyneton Uniting Church presents a fun fashion parade at the Uniting Church Hall in Ebden Street. "The Everlasting Threads" are provided by the Uniting Church Op Shop. All items are for sale.

Door and raffle prizes  
Afternoon Tea included

**Where:** Kyneton Uniting Church Hall.

**When:** Friday 17th of June,

**Time:** 2:00 till 4:30pm

**Tickets:** \$10.00 from the Op Shop.

Or pay at the door

## Synod

All are welcome at opening worship  
and the installation of the new  
Moderator, Rev Sharon Hollis, at  
7.30pm, Friday 3 June, at Wesley Uniting  
Church, 148 Lonsdale St, CBD.

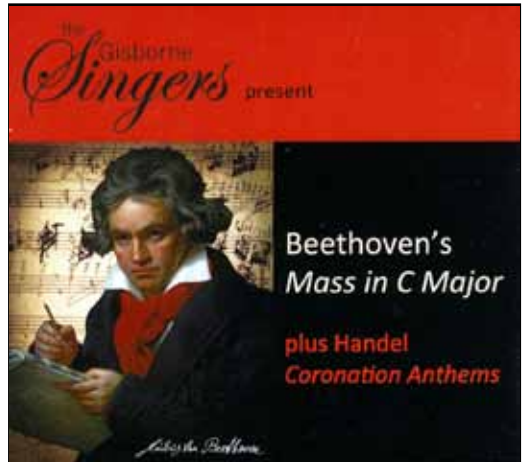
The business meeting will run from  
9.00am Sat 4 June to 4.00pm Wed 8 June  
at Box Hill Town Hall,  
Whitehorse Road, Box Hill.



## Other

### Gisborne Secondary College Chaplaincy

Thanks to all who supported the Movie night.  
Just under \$2000 was raised.



Featuring choir, orchestra, and soloists  
Lee Abrahmsen, Karen Van Spall,  
Robert Barbaro and Timothy Newton

Conductor: Stephen Brockman

Kyneton 3pm Sunday 15 May  
Our Lady of the Rosary  
Catholic Church  
Ebden Street

Gisborne 3pm Sunday 22 May  
Barcham theatre  
Gisborne Secondary college

Tickets \$40, \$35 concession  
\$20 students, Under 12 free

Free afternoon tea after concert

Bookings [www.gisbornesingers.org.au](http://www.gisbornesingers.org.au)  
or 0413 003 254



# Sacred Ground III

works on canvas, calico and paper

Wellspring Gallery  
Y Street, Ashburton

From 22nd April, 2016

Helen Cannon

Mob: 0425 530 434

E: [helenmcannon@gmail.com](mailto:helenmcannon@gmail.com)

## Creative Art Conversation

Wellspring Centre

Y Street, Ashburton

Facilitators: Liz Johnson and Mary McCowan

Guest artist: Helen Cannon

Join in conversation together, quiet reflection and hands-on activity.

Saturday 30 April: 10am to 3pm

\$28 (full) \$22.50 (members/concession)

Morning and Afternoon tea provided (BYO lunch)



## **The Romsey Uniting Church Adult Fellowship**

Invites you to join us for our Annual Winter Luncheon

What Time: 11.15am  
11.45am lunch

When: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2016  
Where: Romsey Uniting Church  
Pohlman Street  
Romsey 3434

Cost: \$12.50

**“Come and enjoy food and fellowship”**

Our speaker this year will be  
**Marcia Harkins**  
Representing Kildonan UnitingCare -  
and the Horses for Hope program

Trading Table and Door Prize.

RSVP. Hazel Allen 5429 5395  
Jeni Clampit 5429 5480  
Or mail to P.O. Box 264, Romsey. 3434  
By 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2016



CoCo met at Riddells Creek on Saturday 9th April. After lunch more congregational representatives from the Partnership arrived to attend a 'Safe Church' Workshop. During the afternoon we looked at ways, and our legal obligations, to make sure our congregations are safe places for vulnerable people, be they children or adults. We all have work to do to set up structures and record keeping to ensure that our churches are safe places for everyone to be. Many people will need to apply for Working With Children Checks.

## **May 5th Sunday Partnership Service**

Planning is underway for our next joint church service, a Progressive Church Service to be held on Sunday 29th May 2016. The service will begin in Lancefield at 9:30am, continue to Romsey at 10:30am, then 11:30am at Riddells Creek followed by Lunch at a venue in Riddells Creek at 12:30pm. Further information will be sent out soon. Please give numbers for those wishing to join us for lunch so we can book in to the venue.

## **Thanks**

A vote of thanks to David Liebich was recorded for all the work, co-ordination of tradesmen and organisation that he put into updating and preparing the office for use. Also thanked was the team of tradesmen and others who assisted with the tasks required to refurbish the office.

A vote of thanks was recorded for all the work David Liebich and Colin Chapman have done organising the website. The website is now dependent on a computer being installed in the office. The telephone will hopefully be installed by the end of the week so that contact can be made through the office. The website is nearing completion. A demonstration of the Website should be able to be given during the next CoCo meeting held at

Sutton Grange. A workshop will be arranged so people can learn how to make changes to the website.

## **Minister's reports**

### **The Big Question**

A new section has been added to the ministers' report called 'The Big Question'. This is to be taken back to congregations, a discussion held and then reported at the next CoCo meeting. THE BIG QUESTION for this month is –

***How can we reinvigorate Bible Study and Prayer within the partnership?***

### **D'Arcy's bit:**

The words "regeneration", "reshaping", "renewal" and "reimagining" are favourites now. Some, like "regeneration", are at the heart of the Gospel. But if the focus is on structures, programmes and procedures it is a case of "cart before the horse". Regeneration is the work of God before it can become the work of the Church. In Christ is new life, and that new life is what the church is about.

This involves constant reform of persons, of communities and of the Church. This in turn involves constant attention to the Gospel, to the Scriptures and to prayer. In prayer we turn to God to be renewed. The Holy Spirit is the one who does the marvellous work of regeneration and renewal. Without the ancient prayer "Come, Holy Spirit" (and, of course, prayers derived from this) the Church becomes detached from the source of new life. The Spirit will renew the life of the Church. That is God's promise.

### **Wendy's bit:**

Highlights have been the recent RM Begg aged care communion service, also lots of conversations around Fresh Expressions

*continued on page 12*

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# May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>1 Easter 6</b> <b>9am</b> - Worship at Kyneton, Tylden, Romsey (& AGM) <b>9:30am</b> - Worship at Gisborne <b>10:30am</b> - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon <b>11am</b> - Worship at Barfold	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>10am</b> - Mt Macedon men's Group <b>2pm</b> - Gisborne Prayer Group
<b>8 Easter 7</b> <b>9am</b> - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden <b>9:30am</b> - Worship at Gisborne <b>10:30am</b> - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon <b>11am</b> - Worship at Metcalfe	<b>9</b> <b>3:30pm</b> - Service at RM Begg	<b>10</b> <b>10am</b> - Muffins 'n More at Gisborne <b>2pm</b> - Lancefield Clasical Music <b>2pm</b> - Gisborne Prayer Group
<b>15 Day of Pentecost</b> <b>9am</b> - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden <b>9:30am</b> - Worship at Gisborne <b>10:30am</b> - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon <b>11am</b> - Worship at Mia Mia <b>6pm</b> - Sunday@6 at Romsey	<b>16</b> <b>1:30pm</b> - Gisborne Fellowship	<b>17</b> <b>2pm</b> - Gisborne Prayer Group <b>7:30pm</b> Romsey & Lancefield Worship Team at Romsey
<b>22 Trinity Sunday</b> <b>9am</b> - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden <b>9:30am</b> - Worship at Gisborne <b>10:30am</b> - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon <b>11am</b> - Worship at Sutton Grange	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>2pm</b> - Lancefield Clasical Music <b>2pm</b> - Gisborne Prayer Group
<b>29 Ordinary Sunday 9</b> 5th Sunday Partnership Service - Church Crawl 9:30am Lancefield 10:30am Romsey 11:30am Riddells Creek followed by lunch	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>2pm</b> - Gisborne Prayer Group

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> 7:30pm - Romsey Church Council/Elders	<b>5 Ascension Day</b> 9am - Worship at Riddells Creek office	<b>6</b> 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group	<b>7</b>
<b>11</b> 1:30pm - Romsey UCAF	<b>12</b> 9am - Worship at Riddells Creek office	<b>13</b> 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group	<b>14</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9am - Worship at Riddells Creek office	<b>20</b> 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group	<b>21</b>
<b>25</b> 2pm - Mt Macedon Thistle Club	<b>26</b> 9am - Worship at Riddells Creek office	<b>27</b> 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group	<b>28</b>

and lots of listening, lots of connecting.

Challenges have included finding time to return to Phillip Island and lots of formal/ Sunday services. Many of these have been double services on a Sunday. The focus on formal Sunday services concerns me.

Anticipating: the beginning of Sunday night services in several places.

#### Judy's bit:

Judy reports that the last month has been busy, yet rewarding both professionally and personally.

Highlights include the birth of a grandson, a Palm Sunday service at Lancefield that also marked the commencement of a series of celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the Lancefield church, Holy week services and Easter morning services (with 23 people attending at Sutton Grange), and a woman with whom she has been in contact attending the Maundy Thursday service at Mt Macedon.

#### Other Ministerial Concerns

Judy has conducted back-to-back services on Sunday mornings in three of the last four weeks, which has served to highlight the pastoral challenges on these occasions. These include inability to follow up with visitors to the churches, and limited ability to participate in informal pastoral conversations over morning tea.

The ministers reported on their concerns regarding back to back preaching. The ministers are concerned that there is not enough time to address Pastoral Care matters that may arise following services, as they have limited time with the size of the partnership. They are also finding it exhausting to be conducting more than one service on a Sunday.

How might we rethink/revisit these arrangements?

D'Arcy is employed (in Peter Cannon's ab-

sence) to conduct Worship and for Pastoral Care concerns only, as he is working .5 not full time. He therefore doesn't have the time to pick up all of Peter Cannon's other duties.

A recommendation was put that reports of concern need to go through Colin or Bronwyn at the office. People who can help out with services need to be pro-active and say they are available and put their names forward. This would assist all churches within the Partnership by pooling of resources of those whose strengths are in leading worship. Peter Cannon's role of resource minister should help to resource worship teams and give them assistance in this area.

Wendy Elson and Peter Cannon are taking Friday and Saturday as their days off. So please only ring if urgent. If the matter is not urgent send an email that they can answer in their own time, or contact the office. D'Arcy Wood and Judy Rigby are contactable at most times, but only work .5. Judy Rigby is available Friday.

#### Database for Ministers

Some congregations are still outstanding, please forward the appropriate information as soon as possible.

Copy of Church Council Minutes Please forward any outstanding minutes as soon as possible.

#### Worship Co-ordinators Meeting

A meeting was held in Kyneton for Worship Co-ordinators with Peter Cannon. This was effective. The meeting now needs to be enlarged to include all Worship leaders. So invitations need to be extended to include all people who lead worship in the Macedon Ranges Partnership. The plan is to run two weekly resourcing meetings, one during the day and one at night. Hopefully this will assist with running of services. These will be held on a Wednesday to help plan the Sun-

day service for Sunday week. The meeting will give ideas and resources for the Service.

### **Office**

Please feel free to drop into the office for a cuppa and a chat anytime you are in the area or passing by. The office is manned most mornings (except Tuesday) between 10am – 12:30pm.

A black and white photocopier has been offered free from Hopper's Crossing.

Please forward any questions or issues to the Secretary prior to meetings so they can be added to the Agenda.

### **Presbytery news**

On Thursday 5th May 2016 at 10am the opening of the new Presbytery Café will take place at Hoppers Crossing. The official opening and launch is on Saturday 7th May. The café will open on Thursday and Friday. The café is the idea of Fiona and Adam, and is to run as a social enterprise and mission outreach. The hope is it will be self-sustaining within two years. It is a development in Presbytery and will be a conversation point.

### **Signage**

A discussion about signage for the Macedon Ranges Partnership churches shall be held at the next meeting.

### **Congregation Reports and announcements**

**Northern** – The members of all churches are still feeling positive and enthusiastic. We are enjoying and finding rewarding the different styles of worship.

Easter Sunday was a highlight with many more than normal attending. Service times are again being published in local newsletters. The service Paul Gilbertson conducted for us was great and we would like to pass our thanks on to him for this.

**Kyneton** – Kyneton has increased in numbers, however we will see what winter brings.

Thanks to Wendy, Judy & Peter for leading Partnership in Print May 2016

of worship.

We have put in for the Solar panels application for 20 panels. At this stage we haven't heard whether we are successful or not.

Kyneton combined churches collaborative has a "Listening and Conversation – Making peace in the face of fear" open forum on the 5th of May, and everyone is invited. (*Deferred for now - Ed*)

Coliban Water has signed off the works for the manse and there has been a structural engineer's report indicating that the manse is structurally sound. This should alleviate the concerns of any potential buyer who sees the cracks in the walls. This should mean that the manse will be able to be put on the market soon.

**Tylden** – Thank you to all the worship leaders who have provided meaningful and thought provoking services for our congregation throughout Lent and into Easter. Together with friends from Woodend we are appreciating many new forms of worship.

The Tylden UCAF and Congregation, along with community members and some of our Op Shop volunteers all participated in another very successful Car Boot sale on the Monday 14th March.

We have a concert to be held in our church, organized by Malcolm Cole and catered for by the UCAF and friends, on Sunday 1st of May. We are supporting Kyneton Caring Community with our proceeds. The concert is "Chamber Music with a Twist" and features a variety of music and instruments. (*See page 5 for details*)

**Romsey** – The Uniting Church hosted the Romsey/Lancefield Good Friday Ecumenical Walk. This year we held it in the Lancefield Park rather than in the streets. We felt it was a good change.

We have enjoyed the first Sunday morning services conducted in our neck of the woods



by both Judy Rigby and Peter Cannon. Peter Cannon also led the Holy Week Service on the Monday evening.

The renovations and painting on the exterior of the hall have been completed. Members of the congregation have completed an access ramp into the hall but it still needs handrails.

Mount Macedon – Our Lenten Studies taken from the “Journeying with Jesus” study book were well attended and promoted lively discussion. In Easter Week we had a series of Meditative Services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. These were led by various members of the Worship Team. We found these gave us reflective space in the lead up to the Easter Services.

Judy Rigby and Peter Cannon led us on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday respectively and both of these services were very meaningful and touched all those present.

The Worship Team led us on Easter Day and it was truly a wonderful celebration.

All Easter Services were well attended and the Worship Team thanks Meg Evans for all her assistance and resources for the services the Team conducted.

At our Sunday Service on April 3rd we were thrilled to welcome our newest member born on the 26th March.

The slate roof on our Church has been repaired and some maintenance done on the roof of the hall.

Our Thistle Club and Men’s Group continue on – both groups are well attended. Many attendees are from the wider the community.

Gisborne – The Peter Barcham Lecture by Jenny Byrnes has prompted continuing discussion, which is encouraging to the congregation. People have asked for the printed summary and the double DVD of the lecture.

A small group has been busy organising our Open Day, scheduled for Saturday 16th April. Lots of invitations have been sent out

and we hope for a good number of visitors. We are preparing a new brochure of information to be available on the day.

Numbers attending services during Holy Week and the Easter season have been fairly good. On Easter Day we had an experimental service led by Peter Cannon.

There are many pastoral needs at present, with serious illness affecting both members of our congregation and their extended families.

### Our Visions for the Macedon Ranges Partnership

Wendy led us in this section of the meeting where we looked at our visions for the Macedon Ranges Partnership and each of our congregations. Wendy likened our partnership to a tree. The Branches are the congregations and the Leaves are the things we do. Wendy explained that the Macedon Ranges is one partnership with local expressions. Wendy then explained that the Trunk is like Christ holding us together.

### Activities we could try to encourage others to take part in:

- Partnership – Church camp
- Singing at 6
- Camping/Social activities
- Arts & Crafts
  - Writing
  - Easter Arts & Installations
  - Displays etc.
- Faith & Fabric Banners etc.
- Monthly Social Meal
- Conversations
- Fund raiser
- Session or Ecumenical groups

### Next Meeting

Saturday 14th May at Sutton Grange Hall commencing at 9:30am.

# Common Clay Pots

Holy Spirit,  
Essence of God,  
how do you come to dwell  
in a frail and soiled human frame?

We would choose  
for our expensive perfumes  
the delicacy of hand cut glass  
or finest crystal.

How is it then that you,  
divine Fragrance,  
pour yourself  
with seeming wantonness  
into cracked and dirty  
common clay pots?

That is a prodigality  
we cannot understand,  
a rich and perfect wastefulness  
that speaks of utmost trust  
and love.

When we are told that this fragrance can be ours,  
when at last we dimly understand,  
we rush to scour and scrub our stained pots clean.  
Dismayed,  
we find the stains are too engrained,  
the dirt of years embedded in the cracks.  
There is no way that we can clean them,  
no frenetic effort,  
no prolonged endeavour,  
has effect.

If in our despair  
we then turn to you,  
humbly  
listening,  
we hear this:

"I do not ask for clean,  
but empty,  
pots.

That emptiness I will fill  
with my oil of joy and peace and power.  
With the fragrant solvent of my love  
I will dissolve the stains that caused you such despair,  
until I set you there before the Master Potter,  
spotless!"

We praise you,  
cleansing Spirit.  
We offer you our emptiness.



*Listen to the Wind - Poems of the Spirit* by Margaret W Williams. Used with permission.

# 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.

May	Location/Position	People
Sun 1st	Craigieburn/Wallan Penleigh & Essendon Grammer School	Rev Peter Weeks Rev Leonie Munro, Mr David Hall
Sun 8th	Croxton Darebin North West Gladstone Park	Rev Kevin Kim Rev Leonie Purcival Church Council & Congregation
Sun 15th	Drysdale Essendon (St John's)	Church Council & Congregation Rev Mark Dunn
Sun 22nd	Essendon North Gannawarra Mission Centre	Rev Fran Barber Ms Kaari Rowell
Sun 29th	Footscray Community Uniting Church Jieng Faith Community	Rev Lavingi Fine Tupou Rev Daniel Kuol

## 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 1st May	Easter 6	W	Acts 16:9-15	67	Revelation 21:10, 22 to 22:5	John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
Thu 5th May	Ascension Day	W	Acts 1:1-11	47 or 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Sunday 8th May	Easter 7	W	Acts 16:16-34	97	Revelation 22:12- 14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
Sun 15th May	Day of Pentecost	R	Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9	104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8-17 (25-27)


### Ordinary Sundays 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.

Sun 22nd May	Trinity Sunday	W	Proverbs 8:1-4,22- 31	8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
Sun 29th May	Ordinary Sun 9	G	1 Kings 18:20-21, (22-29), 30-39	96	Galations 1:1-12	Luke 7:1-10

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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

 A young kid outside the shopping centre gets approached by an old man asking for directions to the post office. The kid politely says "straight ahead ,second right , first left and 100 metres up that road on the left." The elderly man says "thank you young man. I am the new parish minister, why don't you bring mum and dad to the church on Sunday and I will show you the way to heaven." The kid says "not likely, you can't even find the post office".

## 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/#\\*](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle/ecumenical-prayer-cycle/#*)

Week 18	1-7 May	Eritrea, Ethiopia
Week 19	8-14 May	Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda
Week 20	15-21 May	Kenya, Tanzania
Week 21	22-28 May	Malawi, Zambia
Week 22	29 May - 4 June	Botswana, Zimbabwe

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## Contacts Other Groups

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

**Partnership in Print** is a monthly magazine produced by the Macedon Ranges Uniting Church Partnership and is available on the last Sunday of each month, except December.

Copy for the next Edition is due by  
Sunday evening 22nd May 2016



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