

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 8 - March 2016

Seasons - Lent 4 - Easter Day



LENT



Lent – the most exciting journey anyone can take!

My oldest grandson has just started school. He is excited and loves every bit of it. For many families this season is a time of new beginnings as their young children start school or Kinder. They share the excitement together, sometimes with the pain of realizing their baby is growing up but with the joy that they are also learning so much.

At the other end, young adults are coming to the end of their holiday break. The hot summer conditions are perfect for enjoying the beach and relaxation. Nerves simmer away though as they ready themselves for starting tertiary courses.

This season is also one of tension with hot and dry conditions. The conditions for bush and grass fires are ripe. Emergency services are on high alert and those living in areas of high risk are encouraged to have their escape plan on standby and readied.

The season is also squeezed between the family celebrations of Christmas and Easter – times of getting together and enjoying food, sweets and traditions. They are the beginning of the summer holiday period and the brief holiday to end the warmer months. Special foods are central to both festivals and so welcomed and enjoyed.

But Lent, what season is that? It is introduced by pancakes but then it seems to be all about what you don't eat or do, that's if we take much notice of it at all. "What are you going to give up for Lent?" is the question; never "What are you going to do for Lent?" The only other things that seem to have a giving up focus is losing weight and the recent innovation of abstaining from alcohol for a month. Yet again each of these has the positive goal of improved health and wellbeing. Negative thinking repels us while positive thinking excites us. It could be said that Lent has an image problem.

I grew up in a tradition that did not follow the Church calendar with the exception of Christmas and Easter. Lent did not figure in any consideration. To then discover that Lent grew out of the preparation period for baptism in the early church started to provide some meaning. It was a coming aside so that the catechumen* could focus all their attention on being learners of Christ. Bible study, almsgiving, Prayer and fasting were the tools used to help them begin this journey. It actually had a positive focus – on becoming more Christlike as they begin their life of discipleship.

Lent used a pattern of retreating into the wilderness to learn and listen. The aesthetic components were there to help the person grow. They were tools. Again, a positive focus of spiritual wellbeing.

Lent later developed to be a time for all followers of Jesus to reconnect with him. Instead of a pilgrimage of distance it became a journey over time. It was a time to renew and enliven the believer.

* The name given to the people who were learning what it means to be a follower of Jesus as they were preparing for their baptism.

Confession and reconciliation became a central tenant of the journey to open the believer up to the love and grace of God. Spiritual discipline was used to go deeper into faith and relationship with God. That surely is one of the most exciting things to do!

Today, Lent is regaining some of its early meaning in some circles even though it is still broadly thought of in terms of what we give up. And while to be Christlike is not particularly “sexy” in our individualistic and consumerist culture, it is the most exciting journey anyone can go on. While many today do not “go the whole hog” with Lent, it can still be a time to focus afresh on knowing God or to bring justice and hope to the marginalised. We can go on a retreat, practice spiritual disciplines or attend a Bible study. We can even seek to make such practice a part of our everyday journey with Christ throughout the year.

Whatever you do, may this Lenten period be for you a rediscovery of the depths of God’s love and grace for you and the world.

Peter Cannon

Around the Partnership

General

Induction

Induction of Peter Cannon to the Partnership will be on **Sunday 6th March** at 2:30pm at Gisborne UC. We are hoping for a big attendance to welcome Peter in his role as minister in the Partnership.

CoCo

The March meeting of CoCo is an open meeting at Mt Macedon on Saturday 12th March commencing at 9:30am. All welcome

Palm Sunday Gathering

There will be an ecumenical gathering for refugees in Woodend at 2pm on Palm Sunday 20th March. Further details to follow.

JNC

The members of the Joint Nominating Committee meet on **Wednesday 17th March** at Brooke St Medical Centre, Woodend at 7:30pm. Please enter at rear.

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Kyneton

Garage Sale Results

The St Andrew’s Uniting Church Kyneton Garage Sale held on Saturday 13th February was very successful. After expenses more than \$1300 was raised. An excellent result considering the prices for which items were sold.

A very heartfelt thank you to all who helped on the day, especially those who came from other congregations in response to a plea for help.

For those who missed out this time we will be having our next Garage Sale on the Second Saturday in May.

We also sold many Pancakes at the sale, which proved to be a very popular treat, and over \$300 was raised. A very good result for all of the dedicated team in the kitchen.

Services & Worship Leaders

Sunday Services

	Service time	Sunday 6th March	Sunday 13th March	Sunday 20th March	Sunday 27th March
Sutton Grange	11am				Judy Rigby
Mia Mia	11am			Wendy Elson	
Barfold	11am	Peter Cannon - HC			
Metcalfe	11am		Shirley Bowen		
Kyneton	9am	Peter Cannon - HC	Andrea Strack	Wendy Elson	Judy Rigby
Lancefield	10:30am	Worship Team	Peter Cannon - HC	Judy Rigby	Wendy Elson
Romsey	9am				
Tylden	9am	Wendy Elson	Shirley Bowen	Peter Cannon	Rose Broadstock & Bronwyn Hewitt
Woodend	TBA				
Mt Macedon	10:30am	D'Arcy Wood - HC	Max Woolcock	Cliff Talbot	Worship Team
Riddells Creek	5pm Thursday 17th March				
Gisborne	9:30am	Margaet Woolner	Wendy Elson	D'Arcy Wood	Peter Cannon - HC

Holy Week Services

	Partnership services 7:30pm	Mt Macedon 7pm
Monday 21st March	Romsey led by Peter Cannon	TBA
Tuesday 22nd March	Combine with Mt Macedon →	Worship Team
Wednesday 23rd March	Tylden led by Wendy Elson	TBA
Thursday 24th March	Kyneton led by Wendy Elson	Judy Rigby - Holy Communion

Good Friday Services

Tylden at 9am led by Alison Killoh
Mt Macedon at 9am led by Peter Cannon
Gisborne at 9:30am led by Janet Wood
Lancefield at 9:30am led by the Worship Team

Good Friday Walks

Lancefield - 10:30am at Lancefield Park. Meet corner of Park Ave and Chauncey St.
Woodend - 11am

Gisborne

Prayer Meetings

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

Peter Barcham Memorial Lecture

This annual lecture is at Gisborne UC at 7:30pm on **Monday 29th February**.

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

World Day Of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer this year will be held at St Paul's Anglican Church on **Friday 4th March** at 10am.

Church Council

Church Council meets at 7:45pm on **Wednesday 9th March**.

Craft Group

The Craft Group meets at the church on **Friday 11th March** from 11am - 2pm. BYO lunch.

Gisborne AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will take place following morning Service on **Sunday 13th March**. Maree would be very grateful if all Annual Reports could be with her by the end of February for compilation and distribution on the 6th March. Please give prayerful consideration to nominations to Church Council.

Forward Notice

Car Boot Sale on **Saturday 23rd April**
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Open Day

On **Saturday 16th April** we plan to celebrate the re-opening of the Gisborne building.

People from the community - and the Partnership - are invited to inspect the renovated premises and display of memorabilia illustrating the history and activities of the congregation. Morning tea will be served during the inspection, from 10am to 12noon.

At noon a Service of Dedication will be held.

Any members of Partnership congregations who have memorabilia relating to the Gisborne congregation are asked to consider lending them to us for a display. Photos, orders of service, newspaper cuttings etc. would be welcome.

Contact Glennis Speed, Maree Clarke or any Gisborne member.

Knitters & Wool Needed

Isabelle Gossip is looking for 8 ply wool to knit rug squares, and also knitters should you feel up to the task. Finished rugs are now going as far away as Chile and the mountain regions of East Timor, and closer to home, to Benteigh to a refugee centre. Please speak to Isabelle if you can help.

Mt Macedon

Men's Group

Meet at 10am at the Church on **Tuesday 1st March**.

Lenten Study

Lenten Studies continue at 10:30am on **Thursdays**, 3rd, 10th & 17th March. We meet at the church. All welcome.

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.

Tylden

Tylden have been busy during February organising their year. We have held our AGM for the UCAF and Church. Also Op Shop and Cluster AGM meetings with Woodend.

We had the pleasure of a relaxing service led by Robert Renton on 7th February. Judy took a lovely meditative service on 14th February. Janet Cole took a Fresh Expressions service, where we used our various senses to hone into God on 21st February.

We look forward to welcoming Peter Cannon to worship with us and meet our folk on 28th February.

All office bearers are the same as for 2015.

UCAF

Tylden UCAF meet on **Tuesday 1st March** at 10am.

Car Boot Sale

Monday 14th March (Labour Day)

from 9am

in the Tylden church grounds

Book a site for just \$10

Other stalls

Sausage Sizzle

Devonshire Tea

Cakes & Produce

Books & Craft

for enquiries & to book a stall
call Glenda on 5424 8218

Riddells Creek

St Patrick's Day Gathering

Come to Riddells Creek at 5pm on **Thursday 17th March**. Bring and share a Green Meal, dress accordingly etc, green colouring will be available.

Romsey

Church Council

Church council meets in the meeting room at 7:30pm on **Wednesday 2nd March**. Meeting has returned to normal time.

UCAF

Romsey UCAF will meet on **Wednesday 9th March** for a short meeting after which we will tackle cleaning out and reorganise the cupboards in the kitchen. Wear appropriate clothing.

Romsey & Lancefield

World Day of Prayer

The Romsey & Lancefield Ecumenical World Day of Prayer Service is at St Mary's Catholic Church, Romsey, at 11am on **Friday 4th March**. The service this year has been prepared by the women of Cuba.

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 **Tuesday 15th March**.

Good Friday Service and Walk

On Good Friday, **Friday 25th March**, Romsey and Lancefield will have a combined service in Lancefield at **9:30am** led by the Worship Team. The ecumenical **Way of the Cross** will also be in Lancefield and being hosted and lead by the Uniting Church Worship Team. Meet at the Lancefield Park at the corner of Park Lane and Chauncey St at **10:30am**.

Lancefield

Classical Music for Pleasure

Our fortnightly Classical Music program continues 2-4pm **Tuesdays, 1st, 15th & 29th March**

Gisborne SC Chaplaincy Movie Night Fundraiser

The Lady in the Van



Monday 7th March, 6:45 for 7pm
at

Readings Sunbury

Cost \$20 includes Supper

For tickets phone

Helen - 5428 4914 or 0407 686 708

Bronwyn - 5428 4592 or 0417 028 605

Asylum Seekers Network

The Northern Asylum Seekers Network met at Gladstone Park UC last Friday. There were 13 or 14 present - smaller number than previously. Most of the time was spent exchanging news of what the various groups are doing, extending as far away as the Hobson's Bay group (Williamstown, Altona, etc.) which is helping those living in the community find work. This group is not limited to UC.

The Lentara people are also working on helping people find work, e.g. as cleaners.

Some churches have handed over their manses for short to medium term accommodation.

There is some co-operation with RMIT and Monash universities, assisting people to "transition" into the community.

Those who regularly visit people in detention say the loss of hope among asylum seekers is very evident. Our government's policies are, sad to say, quite oppressive and affect people's mental health. The Network will meet approx every 2 months, probably at Gladstone Park. They aim is to have at least one rep from each congregation

IHS

"Pastor," the woman said, "isn't it time to put the 'I Have Suffered' on the altar?"

The minister looked at the woman with a puzzled look, not quite sure at all what she was referring to.

"You know, the green cloth with the letters IHS on it- the 'I Have Suffered.'"

A light bulb went off for the minister, who wanted immediately to correct the devoted church member, but then thought better of it, and simply nodded.

The letters IHS sometimes appear on altar cloths, stained glass windows, clergy vestments, and numerous other places associated with Christians.

What do they stand for?



There are a couple of "official" answers. The most commonly accepted is that they represent the Greek letters *iota*, *eta*, and *sigma*, the first three letters of the name Jesus in Greek.

Another explanation, which makes sense in those instances where the letters are separated by periods, is that they are the first letters of the Latin words *lesu Hominum Salvator*, meaning "Jesus, Saviour of Humankind."

There are several other understandings, including "In His Service." Most important of all, the letters are a symbol, and symbols by their very nature can have many meanings, just as God is experienced and understood in many ways.

Introducing Rev Peter Cannon to the Partnership

Family: Peter and Helen married 35 years ago in Hamilton Victoria. They met through their involvement in the church youth group. Helen grew up on a farm and was training to be a nurse. Peter worked with the Commonwealth Employment Service and was able to meet many different people in various situations.

Their son Ben was born several years later when they were living in Ormond, in Melbourne's South East. Ben is married to Evelyn and they have 4 delightful children, Kyle, Luke, Mark and Nikolette. Being married to Helen constantly enriches him. His grandchildren are a celebration of the life God has gifted us every time he sees them.

Ministry background: Peter and Helen moved to Melbourne in the week following their marriage so that Peter could commence his studies to become a minister with the Churches of Christ. Helen worked as a nurse and it was said she did a PHT (Put Hubby Through!) while Peter studied. Peter had student ministry placements at Dandenong North, Footscray, Bendigo (and Harcourt) and Maidstone.

Peter was ordained with Churches of Christ in November 1984. After his first placement at Ormond Church of Christ, he continued ministry as a school chaplain at Shepparton and later Geelong High Schools. As a chaplain, Peter and Helen appreciated the ecumenical character of the role, allowing them to experience worship and fellowship in a range of denominations and worship styles. In sharing ministry with people of many denominations and traditions, Peter's vision and understanding of faith and life has grown and been enriched.

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Peter was later seconded to 2 congregations in the Uniting Church, Worship @ 9 (Drysdale) and Surfside (Ocean Grove) who were exploring new ways of being church and connecting with the community. Peter was then called to St Andrews Sunbury congregation and has been there for 8 ½ years. It was during his time at St Andrews that he formally transferred as a Minister of the Word to the Uniting Church.

Interests: Peter loves gardening, snorkelling and riding his motor-bike. He used to play, coach and umpire hockey. While he regards himself as a very average player, his great success was when he played in a team that won every game in the season and was promoted to A grade (interestingly they then didn't win a game in A grade!). He also enjoys spending time with friends. He has gained an appreciation of the arts particularly through Helen's influence as an artist. He has a love of the various expressions of the arts whether they be musical, visual, performing, installation or story.

Faith and spirituality: Peter decided to follow Jesus when he was 12 but was not baptised until he was 15. He marks his baptism as a notable change in direction in his life, starting to take initiatives and leadership in the church and school. Peter is passionate about knowing Jesus, being missional and building the ministries of others. He has been the beneficiary of the gifts his teachers and mentors have shared with him. He finds taking time to be quiet and to go on retreat allows him to be more attuned to the voice of the Spirit. Immanuel, God with us, informs and underpins his faith and living. Prayer is a constant conversation with God, even when there are no words.

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When time runs out

I still travel a fair amount, although in theory I've retired. The days before I leave are chronically chaotic. No matter how carefully I plan my activities, several deadlines always seem to pile up at once.

Usually I make "To Do" lists to make sure I don't forget anything.

As the time of departure grows closer, though, I realise I can't possibly get all the things done that need doing and I have to establish some priorities.

It's amazing how the imminence of leaving puts things into perspective. Some things are impossible, period. Others become less important. A long-cherished dream of building myself a grandfather clock, or even of keeping the lawn trimmed, fades into insignificance compared to completing a job someone else is waiting for, or writing a letter to an old friend.

Perhaps that's what the old saying means, "Live every day as if it were your last." Know what's

important and what isn't.

The prospect of death, I'm told, has a similar effect. When it's no longer possible to do everything you had once dreamed of, you soon determine what's important and what isn't.

By the time Jesus got to Jerusalem, it must have been fairly clear to him that he didn't have much time left. As I read the Bible, he changed his tactics. Instead of teaching his message, he began demonstrating it. He acted it out. He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to dramatise that he came in peace. He cleared the Temple to make absolutely clear whose side he was on. He broke bread and poured out wine.

He made his messages experiential. He enacted his final message as he went to his death. People remembered, in vivid detail, how he lived his final hours, his final minutes.

We don't like to dwell on those ugly realities. But they remain an inspiration to oppressed and marginalised peoples around the world.

- Jim Taylor - From Editor's Clip Sheets. Used with permission



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<h1>March 2016</h1>		1 10am - Tylden UCAF 2pm - Gisborne Prayer Group
6 Lent 4 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Barfold	7 6:45pm - Movie Night	8 2pm - Gisborne Prayer Group
13 Lent 5 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne & AGM 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Metcalfe	14 Labour Day 9am - Tylden Car Boot Sale	15 2pm - Gisborne Prayer Group 7:30pm - Romsey/Lancefield Worship Team
20 Palm Sunday 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Mia Mia	21 Monday in HW 7pm - Holy Week Service Mt Macedon 7:30pm - Holy week Service at Romsey	22 Tuesday in HW 2pm - Gisborne Prayer Group 7pm - Holy Week Service Mt Macedon
27 Easter Day 9am - Worship at Kyneton, Romsey & Tylden 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne 10:30am - Worship at Lancefield & Mt Macedon 11am - Worship at Sutton Grange	28 Easter Monday	29 2pm - Gisborne Prayer Group

Young in the mind

People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest wrinkles the soul.

You are as young as your faith,
 and as old as your doubt;
 as young as your self confidence,
 as old as your fear;
 as young as your hope,
 as old as your despair.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 7:30pm - JNC	3 10:30am - Mt Macedon Lenten Study	4 World Day of Prayer 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group 10am Gisborn WDP 11am - Romsey/Lancefield WDP	5
9 1:30pm - Romsey UCAF 7:30pm - Romsey Church Council 7:45pm - Gisborne Church Council	10 10:30am - Mt Macedon Lenten Study	11 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group 11am Gisborne Craft Group	12 9:30pm - CoCo open meeting at Mt Macedon
16	17 10:30am - Mt Macedon Lenten Study	18 10am - Gisborne Prayer Group	19
23 Wednesday in HW 7pm - Holy Week Service Mt Macedon 7:30pm - Holy week Service at Tylden	24 Maundy Thursday <i>End School Term 1</i> 7pm - Holy Week Service Mt Macedon 7:30pm - Holy week Service at Kyneton	25 Good Friday 9am - Worship at Tylden & Mt Macedon 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Lancefield 10:30am - Way of Cross at Lancefield	26
30 2pm - Mt Macedon Thistle Club	31	Daylight Saving ends on Sunday 3rd April 2016 and restarts on the Sunday 2nd October	

In the central place of every heart there is a recording chamber. So long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer and courage-so long are you young.

When the heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then, and only then have you grown old-and then, indeed, as the ballad says, you just fade away.

The Coordinating Council met at Barfold on Saturday 13th February 2013. Thank you to the Northern Congregations for their hospitality.

Reports

Chairperson for 2015

Colin Chapman thanked Robert Renton for leading and chairing CoCo over the initial 12 months. The Coordinating Council members have been busy over the same period.

The Joint Nominating Council has called two ministers who are now in position. We still need to fill the position of Pastoral Care / Regeneration Minister.

Partnership in Print has been started and is working well.

Manses have been refurbished, combined services held with good attendances and finances are sound. Focus for this year is on 'Regeneration' and where to from here.

Treasurer

A reminder was made that full annual financial reports for the 2015 year of each congregation should have been presented at the February meeting. If your congregation has not forwarded its report to the Treasurer please do so as soon as possible.

Kyneton Manse

Hopefully it will be ready to go on the market for sale by March.

Joint Nominating Committee

Hannah Dungan has declined our call. We await further names.

Minister's Reports

Wendy Elson

Judy and I have been working well together across the Partnership. We have covered many of the regular services, lots of Christmas services and also conducted other ser-

vices such as funerals and conducted a wedding. Our lay worship teams and individuals are working very well to facilitate worship, co-ordinate pastoral care and foster the love and hospitality within our congregational communities.

I am hoping that before long I am able to explore many more ways of doing Fresh Expressions services. I want to encourage you to work with your congregations to explore the commitment you have made to this ministry. Are there other ways to be, and do, church in your place? Are there alternative types of worship you can explore? Feel encouraged to dream and to bounce creative ideas off each other and include me in wherever possible. I hope to bring together the group that has been exploring MR Conversations following my leave during February.

I am excited by the conversations I am having in several areas. Firstly some great ecumenical endeavours are kicking off in Woodend. Riddells Creek congregation spent some time thinking through their commitments to one another and their community and are looking to do some social things together while we discern where the Spirit is leading there. This of course includes the newly refurbished office hub which will bring some further life and commitment to that community. Anyone busting to help me explore the idea of designing a Labyrinth space????

I have enjoyed January's different pace and have dropped in to activities around the place such as Neighbourhood House activities, knitting group, walking group and joining the Gisborne Singers for one of the many Australia Day celebrations. I have served Pancakes and enjoyed Garden Par-

ties. Macedon Ranges congregations are so hospitable and caring of one another and it has been a pleasure to be so well included in this. Thanks to all of you.

Here's to the next phase! *Wendy*

Peter Cannon

I start normal duties on Monday (*15th February*) and so will be looking at getting around to meet people and familiarize myself with the Partnership. This will mean I will see if I can arrange to drop in to most of the worship facilities and maybe meet a few people as I do.

I have been able to spend some time during this transition period on retreat and at home, reflecting, reading and starting to focus on the Macedon Ranges Partnership. It is exciting hearing glimpses of the different things happening and ideas developing in the Partnership. Over the coming weeks I hope to begin getting to know people and listen to their hopes and dreams for their churches and communities.

I will meet with the Worship Coordinators next Thursday evening to begin hearing of the needs of each community and how I may assist in resourcing their worship life.

I appreciate your prayers and thoughtfulness. Please continue to pray for Wendy and me as we seek to work together in building the ministry of the Partnership. Please also pray for my wife Helen, as we both adjust to the changes we face.

Blessings and grace to you all, *Peter*

(Peter's contact details are on the back page of PiP)

Judy Rigby

In the last two months I have led nine services in six different churches across the partnership: Lancefield, Kyneton, Gisborne, Tylden, Mia Mia and Sutton Grange. I have

also participated in the combined service at Romsey and attended various events: Lancefield classical music, Follow the Star at Romsey, Australia Day afternoon tea at Gisborne, pancake lunch at Riddells Creek and the Ash Wednesday service at Gisborne.

I have officiated at three funerals and attended a fourth and, in liaison with Wendy, have continued to follow up pastoral needs with visitation and/or phone calls as appropriate.

My vision for the next month is to continue to offer pastoral care and support where needed, to prepare for Lent and Easter services, to attend events that may be held throughout the Lenten season in order to participate in corporate prayer and reflection.

Finally, I wish to thank you for the continued warmth and hospitality afforded to me from across the partnership.

Grace and peace to you, *Judy Rigby*

CoCo church matters

Partnership Office at Riddells Creek

The building is well on the way to being finished. A lot of work has been done to bring it up to a suitable standard. The building has been rewired, new plaster has been laid, and the finishing touches will be completed Wednesday. The plan is to paint during Thursday and Friday. The building should be ready for handover to CoCo for its use on Monday 29th February. The toilet has been upgraded so it has facilities for disabled use. The kitchen will be reinstated and carpet will be cleaned to bring the area all up to date. One phone will be connected at this stage.

Secretary for Partnership Ministers

Bronwyn Hewitt will work at the Riddells Creek office three mornings a week. (8 hours per week for 6 months) Grants are being sought to see if there is anything available to obtain funding to extend past the 6 months.

If people have expertise in the area of locating or applying for grants and would like to donate their time to try and obtain funding it would be appreciated.

Updated Database for Ministers

The Ministers are calling for an updated Database for their use. The database will only be accessible to the Ministers and CoCo Secretary. The database shall be kept behind a password. People will need to opt out if they don't want their information collected.

Copy of Church Council Minutes

The ministers have requested that copies of all Church Council minutes be forwarded to CoCo Secretary to be stored at Riddells Creek Office. The request has been made because the ministers are unable to attend all meetings within the Partnership and need to be kept up to speed with what is going on within the partnership.

Induction of Rev Peter Cannon

Peter's Induction will be held on Sunday 6th March 2016 at 2:30pm at Gisborne Uniting Church.

5th Sunday Partnership Combined Service

On 29th May the next Partnership wide service will be Progressive – Just like a progressive dinner our worship service will be spread over a number of the Partnership churches. Transport will be congregational car pooling. A group has been formed to plan this day.

Preaching timetable

Completed until June 2016. We need to check that each congregation is happy with the layout of the preaching plan until June. The preaching plan will need to be explored beyond June to allow for flexibility in the second part of the year, so that we can start to work on regeneration and Fresh Expressions ideas and ways of worship. This will enable us to start moving forward in the direction

to which we have committed the Macedon Ranges Uniting Church Partnership.

Extreme or Code Red Days

People were quite upset when Church Services and activities were cancelled because of a Fire Rating of Extreme was declared in the North Central and Central Fire Districts during December. The question was asked if it still applied that Churches in the Macedon Ranges Uniting Church Partnership were required to enforce cancellation of church activities on days of Extreme and Code Red Fire Rating days as recommended by Synod. After a discussion some members felt that this should not apply. It was decided that CoCo will leave it to the congregations to make their own decisions.

Reports from Congregations

- Northern – Extreme weather affected all Christmas Services, as the policy was for all Macedon Ranges Partnership services and activities to be cancelled on days of Extreme Fire Rating days. January has been quiet. February continuing as usual.
- Kyneton – They are running a garage sale today. (13th Feb) This is combined with the town Piper Street Market. Op Shop Garage shed at back of hall is being extended. Funds from the Op Shop are paying for the extension. This needs to be extended as the manse is no longer available to store furniture.
- Tylden – Carol Service was well attended. Contact has been made with the local Primary school about the offer of assistance. The school would like assistance from members of the public with reading at 9am each morning and gardening Wednesday and Friday mornings. The volunteers need to have a Working with Children card, which shall be checked when they attend the school. They are working on organising

their Car Boot Sale to be held on Monday 14th March 2016.

- Woodend – Their church council has met. They have contacted those who quoted on building works last year to see if the quote is still valid or if it needs to be increased. The roof will probably be replaced with Coloumbond.
- Lancefield – They have enjoyed the Christmas period where they have shared their services with Romsey. This year they are celebrating their 150th years of worship in the Lancefield area. There are a number of activities organised throughout the year. Wendy Elson will dedicate their landscaped 'Charlie Smith' garden on 1st March. Mid-March Judy Rigby will conduct a service to celebrate their 150th.
- Romsey – Their 'Follow the Christmas Star' event was very successful. Their combined service held on 5th Sunday in January, Sunday 31st, was well attended and the barbeque went ahead in spite of the rain. They were joined by Kyneton and Northern Churches for this service. On Shrove Tuesday they held an informal pancake tea, this was a great social event and they have decided to continue meeting as a social group on a regular basis. Their next meeting of the social group is on 19th April 2016. World Day of Prayer on 4th March will be held at Catholic Church this year. An ecumenical Good Friday walk will take place in Lancefield, with the Uniting Church taking the lead.
- Mount Macedon – Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were both well attended. They have been happy that attendances have been good over January and into February. They enjoyed getting together at Romsey on the 5th Sunday in January. Their Men's group have recommenced

for 2016 and their Thistle Club will start on February 24th. Their Lenten Studies started this week at 10:30am Thursday. They are looking forward to another year of service and fellowship both at Mount Macedon and in the broader partnership.

- Riddells Creek – Are resuming meeting on a social basis with events held once a month. The first a Pancake social event last Tuesday. The church was full and everyone present enjoyed lunch together. The Macedon Ranges Partnership Office is being developed with refurbishment of the old Sunday School building. They believe this will be a point of outreach as local people realise that Ministers and office staff are there and this will be beneficial with a long term presence. Wendy Elson has indicated an interest in establishing a labyrinth in the grounds.
- Gisborne – Their combined service on 31st January was well attended with congregations of Tylden, Woodend, Kyneton and Northern Churches as well as Gisborne. Lenten studies commenced last Friday at 11am. The Prayer Group is meeting on Tuesday and Friday. Building renovations are almost complete, carpet is going down on Wednesday. They have purchased a new stove for the kitchen. UCAF commences tomorrow with a visit to BUDA at Castlemaine at 1pm. The Peter Barcham Lecture is to be held on 29th February at 7:30pm. The guest speaker is Jenny Byrnes.

Next meeting

The next meeting of CoCo is to be held on **Saturday 12th March** at 9:30am in the Mount Macedon Uniting Church **This will be an open meeting**, therefore any Macedon Ranges UC Partnership member is welcome to attend. The priority of the meeting is regeneration.

Lectionary Readings Year C

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
Sun 6th	Lent 4	P	Joshua 5:9-12	32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Sun 13th	Lent 5	P	Isaiah 43:16-21	126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Sun 20th	Palm Sunday	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 19:28-40 or John 12:12-16
	Passion Sunday	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14 to 23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
Mon 21st	Monday in Holy Week	P	Isaiah 42:1-9	36: 5-11	Hebrews 9: 11-15	John 12:1-11
Tue 22nd	Monday in Holy Week	P	Isaiah 49:1-7	71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wed 23rd	Monday in Holy Week	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Thu 24th	Maundy Thursday	P	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Fri 25th	Good Friday	B	Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12	22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1 to 19:42
Sat 26th	Holy Saturday	B	Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24	31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19 38-42

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.

Sun 27th	Easter Day	W	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
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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/#>*

28 Feb - 5 Mar	Germany, France
6-12 Mar	Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino
13-19 Mar	Myanmar, Thailand
20-26 Mar	Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam
27 Mar - 2 Apr	China, Hong Kong, Macao

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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

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.

March	Location/Position	People
Sun 6th	Bellbrae Wesley Footscray Outreach	Rev. Helen Robinson Wesley Mission Victoria
Sun 13th	Belmont	Rev Sr Miriam and Mr Geoff Aitken
Sun 20th	Campbellfield (Scots) Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress	Congregation & Rev. Dr John vander Reest State Council and staff of Narana Creations
Sun 27th	Brunswick Brunswick Indonesian Congregation	Rev Ian Ferguson Congregation and Leadership

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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

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 Rita Vandervalk David Noble, Judy Stammers	<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)

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