

# 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 6 - December 2015 / January 2016

Seasons - Advent 2 to Epiphany 4





## Community

One of the things that strikes me as I move around the partnership, is the very great care our congregations are taking of one another. Many of our number have struggles and I have noticed how much kindness there is for each other in the tough times. It is very genuine and stems from a clear love for one another. In any group there will be differences. We thank God for those because difference is very important in helping us grow. It is as we are challenged that we are caused to more deeply seek new ways to see. It's a bit like the action and friction of sandpaper on beautiful wood (reminding me of the beautiful 'Holding Crosses' made for me recently by the Woodend Men's Shed).



However it seems to me that the things which unify us and bring us together far outweigh any differences. We have a common humanity, common love for God and for the Church and this is where our hearts lie. I am positive that in this is church growth. Being kind to each other, offering our care, demonstrates our love for each other and our Christian values. As we develop that sense of community our churches grow. We invite others into the intimacy of human relationship and connection. In this is mission, inviting others to share together in the community of relationship that is our God. It is simple and basic, and it is at the centre of our faith. I sense us growing together in hope and faith and I am encouraged. I hope you are too!

*Wendy Elson*

# Reports & Events

## General

### CoCo

The final Coordinating Council Meeting for 2015 will be at 9:30am at the Romsey Uniting Church on Saturday, 12th December. Afterwards members of the Council will go to lunch together at Soltan Pepper (own cost). Please let Jay Brooks know by Tuesday, 8th December if you will be attending lunch so we can confirm numbers.

### Gisborne SC Chaplaincy

There have been 2 wonderful fund raising events recently. Thank you to all who have supported us.

260 tickets were sold for the movie night to see 'The Dressmaker'. We made a profit of \$2,754.

Listening to Tim Costello at the breakfast was inspirational. A big thank you to all who made it such a success. We had many great compliments about the morning.

If you want a copy of Tim's book 'Hope' contact Bronwyn Tacey ASAP on 0417 028 605. The cost is \$20.

The committee has worked extremely hard to meet the target of \$50,000 for this year. They expect to get within \$5,000 of the amount.

Any congregations with shortbread money outstanding please return ASAP so the books can closed off for the year.

### Christmas Toy Shop

The Kyneton Christmas Toy Shop is run by the local churches in conjunction with Cobaw. The Baptist Church hosts the shop with all the donated gifts displayed so parents can choose appropriate gifts for their children. This year they are in particular need of cash or gift vouchers, stocking

fillers and books etc appropriate for 14-17 year olds. Gifts are then wrapped by volunteers while parents enjoy refreshments.

Please make sure donations from your congregations (unwrapped) are taken to the Baptist church by Friday, 18th December.

### Conversations

The second get together to discuss 'Conversations' is at 7pm on Tuesday, 1st December at the Woodend Manse. Please bring food to share.

## Woodend

### Uniting Care & Target Christmas Appeal 2015

This is the 24th year that Target and Uniting Care have partnered to brighten the lives of thousands of Australian families at Christmas.

Once again we are asking people in our community to donate unwrapped gifts or gift cards at the Woodend Target store. There is also an initiative to purchase \$1 bauble gift tags at the checkout aiming to raise \$1million to provide emergency relief.

Last year the appeal helped support 42,000 Australian families. We encourage everyone to support this appeal which runs from November 3 until December 4.

*Shirley Roberts, local Uniting Care Co-ordinator*

## Tylden

### Tylden UCAF news

We will be catering for the Tylden Primary School Grade 6 Graduation which will be held in the Tylden Hall on Thursday 17th December.

On Saturday, 5th December is our Christmas afternoon tea at 2pm at Vespers in Woodend.

	Service time	Sunday 6th December	Sunday 13th December	Sunday 20th December	Sunday 27th December
Northern Congregations	11am	Barfold Wendy Elson	Metcalfe Shirley Bowen	Mia Mia HC - Judy Rigby	
Kyneton	9am	Wendy Elson	Andrea Strack	HC - Judy Rigby	TBA
Romsey	9am	Worship Team	Wendy Elson	10am Combined in Romsey Worship Team	10am Combined in Lancefield TBA
Lancefield	10:30am				
Mt Macedon (& Riddells Creek)	10:30am	HC Judy Rigby	Rob Coulson	Cliff Talbot	Wendy Elson
Tylden (& Woodend)	9am	HC - Max Woolcock	Shirley Bowen	Jan Cole	Bronwyn Hewitt
Gisborne	9:30am	Keith Hallett	Paul Gilbertson	Janet Wood	HC - Judy Rigby

Woodend	6pm tea 7pm service	Monday 14th December	Monday 28th December
		At the Woodend Manse	At the Woodend Manse

## Christmas Services

	Carol Services	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Northern Congregations	Community Carols 7pm Sunday 20th December Sutton Grange UC Supper to follow		
Kyneton		7pm Wendy Elson	
Romsey	Ecumenical Carol Service Sunday 13th December TBC	7:30pm Combined in Lancefield Judy Rigby	9am Combined in Lancefield Wendy Elson
Lancefield			
Mt Macedon (& Riddells Creek)		9pm Wendy Elson	9am Meg Evans
Tylden (& Woodend)		7:30pm Carols at Tylden Worship Team	9am - Woodend Team
Gisborne		7:30pm Eleanor Wood	9:30am Margaret

Sunday 3rd January	Sunday 10th January	Sunday 17th January	Sunday 24th January	Sunday 31st January
Barfold TBA	Metcalfe HC - Wendy Elson	Mia Mia TBA	Sutton Grange TBA	Attend church of choice
TBA	HC - Wendy Elson	TBA	TBA	TBA
10am Combined in Romsey Worship Team	10am Combined in Lancefield HC - Jay Brooks	10am Combined in Romsey TBA	10am Combined in Lancefield TBA	10am 5th Sunday Combined in Romsey Wendy Elson
Brian Charter	HC - Max Wool- cock	Adele Mapperson	Cliff Talbot	
HC - Wendy Elson	Shirley Bowen	Jan Cole	Bronwyn Hewitt	10am 5th Sunday Combined in Gisborne Robert Renton
Eleanor Wood	Shirley	D'Arcy Wood	HC - Wendy Elson	
Monday 11th January At the Woodend Manse		Monday 25th January At the Woodend Manse		

## Gisborne

### Grocery Collection

There is a Gisborne UC trolley at the Brantome Street entrance to Foodworks. Approval has been given by Foodworks for us to collect groceries from 14th November to approx 16th December. They will be taken to Lentara at Broadmeadows.

### Gisborne UCAF

At it's meeting last Monday, our Fellowship decided to continue in 2016 along the same lines as for 2015 with meeting every second month at which we will have either a social function or speaker.

Following our meeting, and together with congregational members, our Fellowship drove to 'Seasons' in Riddells Creek to enjoy a break up afternoon tea.

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## Fellowship and Community

There is to be a short Fellowship & Community meeting held on Tuesday, 1st December at 9:30 am at the church, (or an alternate venue). All members and others wishing to help the committee in planning future ventures and functions are most welcome. If you have any ideas you would like to submit to the Committee, please give them to a committee member, or come to the meeting.

### Prayer Meetings

You are invited to attend prayer meetings at 2pm on Tuesdays, and 10am on Fridays at the church. There is also the opportunity to meet in the church front room after Sunday Worship for anyone wishing to have a time of reflection or in need of prayer support.



## **A new church in Riddell for 2016**

It has been 10 months since it was decided that the RCUC would go into temporary recess for 12 months. This followed a process where our numbers were declining steadily and our financial situation was also not good. Presbytery were not happy for us to take that final step and close permanently and we were keen to see what might come of the new Macedon Ranges Partnership before making a final decision.

Well that year has gone by in the blink of an eye and our partnership process has progressed in leaps and bounds and in the most positive direction that one could imagine. Wendy is now on board and is keen to be involved in whatever capacity she can.

Because of all these positive moves, I felt it most appropriate to call our congregation together again to discuss what they might like to do seeing that Christmas would soon be upon us, our 12 month semi-retirement was soon up and that our collective dreams for the partnership were rapidly starting to become reality. So a meeting was called for Sunday morning Nov 1st at 9:30am at our church.

After a little confusion regarding the meeting time so skilfully executed by myself, we all came together to discuss once again our future. It was also wonderful to have Wendy pop in before fulfilling her preaching duties at Mt Macedon to give her perspective on what could be options for us as we started to reconsider our future. It was most worthwhile to have her share these ideas directly, rather than coming from a third intermediary or at some later date. We were able to make an informed decision based on knowing the options we had before us, so thank you Wendy for sacrificing some sleep to come and

share your valuable thoughts.

So after considerable discussion, all of which was both positive and promising for the future, we decided that we would begin to meet again in 2016 as a congregation on a regular basis. It was also decided that this would mean that we would meet once a month during 2016, the dates to be decided and passed onto the partnership at a church council meeting to be held sometime before Christmas, where this decision to reopen our doors on a regular basis would also be ratified. The format and time of these meetings would be decided as the year marched on and those details disseminated to everyone via the PIP with plenty of warning. It was intended that we would use these opportunities to explore alternative ways and locations and formats of meeting together. It was in this area that Wendy was most helpful in showing us the many options that we could explore. So we embark upon our new journey in 2016 with both a little apprehension as to how it will all work out but also with excitement that we are all willing to explore the options to see where the Lord leads.

To add some impetus to our decision, our positive direction forward was enhanced by the completion of roof repairs to our church (see next page) and a complete interior repaint together with a request from CoCo that we proceed to renovate our back hall to be used as an office for the 3 ministers / a conference room / CoCo office in the southern end of the Ranges. This will also work with our intention to utilise the church building as a community meeting resource in conjunction with the local Neighbourhood House.

So we seek your support and prayers as we seek where the Lord leads and how he leads us into 2016.

*David Liebich*

# Restoration & Community Garden

The restoration of our Welsh slate roof has now been completed, along with new spouting. Riddell has had its interior completely repainted. This turned into a major job as even the minute cracks, revealed deep depressions when the paint was stripped back. Anthony Trollope employed a deep wall specialist plasterer to fill all the faults before undercoating and top coating all walls.

The final result is stunning. Anthony's love of the church showed through in his meticulous work. He showed a particular interest in our stained glass window and while cleaning discovered the signature of the glass artist.

The artist was William Montgomery who had his business at 164 Flinders St, Melbourne. Trained in London and Germany, he arrived in Melbourne in 1887. He worked for both Catholic and Protestant congregations as well as private institutions. His work can be seen at Lowther Hall C.E.G.G.S. Essendon. Even though we do not have a date we know our stained glass window was constructed well after the building of the church. After the First World War, William focussed on commemorative pieces until his death in 1927. When researching, we discovered our stained glass window is one of the few round windows he carried out (and we think, by far the most beautiful).

Restoration work will be continuing.....

The community garden has seen the end of the winter crop, with seedlings being added for summer. If you have a spare moment, feel welcome to plant seedlings in the spare beds, water or generally weed. The painters commented on the number of people that dropped in to look at the garden and therapeutically remove a few weeds for us.

*Barry and Marg Tarrant*

### Church Council / Elders

Our final meeting for the year is on Wednesday, 9th December. (TBC) at 7:30pm at the Strack's. Meeting moved due JNC meeting. There will be no meeting in January.

### Romsey UCAF

At our November meeting and AGM all office bearers were reelected unopposed. Thank you to everyone who has helped us out with catering during the year. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 10th February.

### Follow the Star

This will take place on Monday, 21st & Tuesday, 22nd December. The animals are being provided by Parklands Mobile Farm. We need to raise \$700 to cover the cost over the 2 nights. See advertising on page 14.

### Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

This year the Romsey Lancefield team delivered 147 boxes to the Mitcham warehouse. Of those boxes 27 were from the Romsey Encourage church and 120 were ours. After delivering the boxes the team stayed at the warehouse for the day working on the processing line, checking the boxes to make sure each box followed the guidelines and wasn't containing any prohibited items.

From the 'Follow your box' facility we have learned that most of the boxes are on their way to Fiji. Eight of the 5-9 year old girls boxes are on their way to Thailand. There are only 2 of our boxes that have not yet been processed.

Many thanks to businesses who donated items, Romsey IGA - scissors, Officeworks - stationary items (chunky pencils and sharpeners, exercise books, rubbers), Just in Time Transport - large cheque to cover freight costs.

## Kyneton

### Kyneton Combined Churches Christmas Afternoon Tea

Come and share afternoon tea on Tuesday, 1st December at St Paul's Anglican Church Hall commencing at 1:30pm.

A mystery event of trivial yet exceedingly important proportions will feature in the afternoon

**All Welcome**

### Youth Ministry Forum

The Kyneton Combined Churches collaborative (Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic & Uniting Churches and the Society of Friends (Quakers)) is planning a Youth Ministry Forum at the Kyneton Baptist Church in late January. More details later.

## Lancefield

### Classical Music for Pleasure

Our Classical Music program continues fortnightly on Tuesdays on 8th & 22nd December, 2-4pm at the Lancefield Church. The first session for 2016 will be Tuesday, 2nd February.

## Asylum Seeker Network

Wendy Hebbard, from Gisborne UC, attended the Asylum Seeker Network meeting at Gladstone Park on Monday 16th November. She has provided a summary of the notes she took.

### Speaker 1. Leonie Walker BapCare Sanctuary "House of Hope" project.

- Help for people looking for accommodation. No Government support.
- This project arose out of the Brunswick project. They liaise closely with Lentara. So far, 300 people have benefitted from this project. Mostly men.
- Residents pay a little money or none. Their

support is 89% of Newstart.

- Rentals might be \$190 out of \$240 pension.
- Recently, the church purchased a former aged care facility nearby.
- Volunteers are needed eg; English language tutors. And employment opportunities.
- Material aid presents some difficulties. Transport and storage of goods is required. Does anyone know of a spare empty shed?
- From Woodend there have been some offers of weekend stays for refugees.
- Visits and home- sharing needs to be carefully thought out.

### Speaker 2 John Uren from Ringwood North.

- The group's first attempt at using the church house for an Egyptian family did not work out.
- The greatest issue in the world----- There are 20,000,000 refugees increasing to around 60,000,000 .
- Take a look at the Old Testament - the Torah. The 'alien' is often mentioned in Deuteronomy. Caring for the 'alien' is a major agenda for the Church.
- People have a lot of suspicions about Asylum Seekers.
- When the Ringwood Church had Julian Burnside as a speaker, they expected 200 to turn up. Instead, there were over 400.
- Ideas - having a Church garden - vegetables go to Asylum Seekers.
- The whole issue has been politicised. We are looking at the dark side of the world.
- We should not patronise refugees but try to make our contacts "natural". Offer friendship.
- Keep writing to MP's and challenge government policy.
- There are 2,000 in detention centres. Peter Dutton is not very well-loved !
- Federal authorities are very insensitive to traumatised people.
- John gave some sad examples.

*Wendy Hebbard*



This issue I would like to thank all the wonderful members in the Partnership who have helped me out this year. I would like to thank those who have helped with providing venues, set up and packed up venues, supplied morning teas, my fabulous scribe Sina who has made my job so much easier, Robert Renton for all his support during the year, my fellow members who have transported me to meetings, Jay for all the name tags and editing my Partnership in Print reports and especially my very supportive husband for all his help and understanding.

We have sent a request for continuation of Supply Ministry by Judy Rigby until 31st March to the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee. We have also sent a request for Jay Brooks' continuation to officiate at Eucharist within the Macedon Ranges Partnership.

We shall be undertaking a Safe Churches Training at 1:30pm on Saturday, 9th April at Riddells Creek Uniting Church following the April CoCo meeting. It is a requirement for all congregations to complete this training.

Rev Peter Cannon has accepted the call to Macedon Ranges Uniting Churches Partnership and will start on 1st February, with two weeks transition leave.

Paul Gilbertson gave the Treasurer's report. The Finance Meeting held on Wednesday 11th November decided to keep commitments for the Expenses and Stipend for 2016 the same as for 2015, unless unforeseen expenses should arise.

Kyneton manse sewerage works have been completed. They are now waiting for final sign off by Coliban Water, probably after Christmas. A fence is to be erected before Christmas, which needs to be a paling fence due to heritage overlay. The manse will probably be for sale around March 2016.

Colin Chapman gave a report on progress with the new website. The hope of the committee is that the website will be in place within a short time.

Rev Deacon Wendy Elson provided an overview of the conversation program. The focus of the group will be on justice, transformation and inclusion. There is a hope that the group will enable issues of common concern within the wider community to be discussed and that connections will strengthen enabling shared faith opportunities to happen. Anyone can join the groups. We believe this idea will be good for the church to undertake deep listening to the greater community in which we live, enabling the congregations to understand more fully what the community we live in needs and how we can serve them better. Planning for Rev Peter Cannon's Induction Service needs to be discussed with Presbytery. It is expected to take place about the middle of February 2016.

Discussion was held about the need for the Partnership to provide an office as a base for the Ministers. There is the possibility that this will be at Riddells Creek UC. Further discussion needed.

A timetable of Christmas Services and Activities has been sent to all local monthly publications.

The Memorandum of Understanding states that open meetings will be held three times a year to give members of the congregations who wish to attend an opportunity for creative thinking, planning for the Partnership and its mission, celebrating new developments throughout the Partnership and to hear any concerns. It was great to see those Partnership members who joined us at Barfold and made contribution to the meeting.

### **Minister's Reports**

Wendy Elson provided a detailed written report of her past month. Here is some of what she

wrote.

The last month has been a time of consolidating relationships and discerning the way forward. I have still done a little of treading water at times too as we await the future partnership ministers when we can be more specifically ministering in our designated roles.

During the last month I have been doing a lot of services. I have also tried to help groups working "outside the square" as we explore together different ways to be Church. We have continued to develop the idea of Church with the Woodend group. Riddell's Creek and I are in conversation around discerning how we can best reinvigorate the group there and be at mission together in that community.

I have met up with several other local ministers groups and participated with them in memorial services at several aged care facilities and also conducted a communion service at RM Begg.

I have been given some wonderful opportunities to share in the hospitality offered by various groups such as the Thistle Club's high tea and the talk given by D'Arcy and Janet at Gisborne UCAF.

I spent a great day at Lancefield with Ian getting to know a few people around town and discerning how best to serve the folks there. I spent some time with Sam and Casey at Kyneton Caring Communities and have networked with a few other groups and churches about how we can best be in service together and where there may be opportunities we can develop.

We had a great community CFA service (well I enjoyed it!) at Metcalfe.

One particular blessing this month has been a connection with the Woodend Men's Shed. These guys willingly took an idea from a template for a 'holding cross' and have made me several of these lovely wooden crosses for use with the sick and elderly. (See 'Page 2' for a photo)

Another blessing has been the group looking at intentional transformational conversations. This has led to some really interesting conversations and opportunities.

I continue to see the Spirit of God at work as people are interrupted and surprised by new opportunities to dream. People are looking for opportunities to work together and are listening together to see where we might be able to move forward into shared ministry opportunities.

I also attended my Valedictory service from Pilgrim Theological College recently. The work for my degree is now complete. Yay!!!

Thank you to you all for the hospitality, the love and the support you are offering me and for your willingness to be available to God and the church in so many ways.

Judy Rigby has been busy undertaking Pastoral Care visits in conjunction with Wendy. She has also led services in Kyneton and the Northern Churches during the last month. Over the next month Judy shall be leading services within other congregations of the Partnership including Tylden, Mount Macedon, Lancefield/Romsey and Gisborne.

### **Partnership News**

Northern – The Northern Churches are going well. The Country Fire Authority Blessing of the Fire Trucks was well attended by members of the community. Everyone had an enjoyable day. The community events are well supported. There is an increase in optimism and positive attitude, which has brought an increase in numbers at church.

Kyneton – We also have seen an increase in positive attitude towards the church. It seems to be a happier place and we have a notable increase in numbers attending services. There has been a noted inclusion of the Northern Congregations in the Partnership, which was a concern of ours when the Macedon Ranges partner-

ship was first formed.

Tylden – Thanks to Rev. Dr. D'Arcy Wood for all his services to our congregation over the last 12 months. This has enabled us to have Holy Communion on a regular basis. We have been asked to assist the local Fire Brigade cater for a funeral and are also catering for the Tylden Primary School Year 6 graduation. We are going along well.

Woodend – We are still having challenges with our building. We are now joining together on a regular basis in the Woodend manse to worship, which is helping to keep us together.

Lancefield – David Noble, one of our Congregation and CoCo representatives and his family are moving back to Melbourne. We shall be sorry to see them go as they have given a lot of support to us during the time they have been in Lancefield.

We have increasing numbers at church with more children also attending. The impact of fires created a level of shock in the town. We opened the church for private prayer on Wednesday and Thursday following the fires.

Romsey – We are also sorry to lose David Noble who is in the worship team and a great support.

We are in the planning phase of the 'Follow the Star' event and are looking forward to the walk through the town which will be led by Mary & Joseph and a donkey. We ask you to come and enjoy the nights dressed as a character from those times. See advertising opposite. At least one night we will be accompanied by the Kyneton Municipal Band.

This year we managed to donate 120 Operation Christmas child shoeboxes. We had spent all year collecting and then a day together packing. We were also surprised and delighted by a donation of \$1,100 from a local transport company 'Just in Time Transport' to help cover the freight cost.

Mount Macedon –The Thistle Club had a de- Partnership in Print December 2015 / January 2016

lightful afternoon, where we enjoyed a high tea at our 'Spring Afternoon Tea'. The speaker of the day was Sam from Kyneton Care and Community, who spoke about their work through the Food Bank and Counselling Services. We had the pleasure of company from members of other churches within the partnership as well as neighbouring congregations. We are about to begin a series of Advent Bible Studies, starting on Thursday 26th November 2015, between 10:30am and 12noon. We are using the 'Emmanuel, God is with us' study book. These bible studies go for four weeks.

Gisborne – Is currently holding Advent bible studies, because we decided to begin early, having started on Friday 6th November. Our prayer group meets twice a week on Tuesday at 2pm and Friday at 10am. Anyone who is in the area at these times is most welcome to join us. We have a trolley in the supermarket where food can be left for Lentara.

Renovations update, the front is almost complete, the parking area will be concreted next week. Lighting is being erected around the signs which will show these up nicely at night. The back has been finished as a usable space, where barbeques can be held or small meetings conducted.

#### Other News

Mark Dunn, one of the Presbytery reps on CoCo, also endorsed giving to the Christmas Bowl appeal after a trip to India this year where he saw some of the projects supported by Christmas Bowl.

Gisborne Chaplaincy informed us that money has been reduced from school funding. The support group need to find \$5,000 more next year to help fund the chaplain. They have lost \$20,000 of Federal funding. Thank you to the local churches for their continued support of the chaplains.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<h1>December</h1> <h1>2015</h1>		<b>1</b> 9:30am - Gisborne Fellowship & Community Committee 1:30pm - Kyneton CC afternoon tea 2pm - Gisborne Prayer 7pm - Conversations
<b>6</b> <b>Advent 2</b> 9am - Romsey, Tylden, & Kyneton 9:30am - Gisborne 10:30am - Lancefield, Mt Macedon 11am - Sutton Grange 7pm - Lacuna at Kyneton	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 2pm - Gisborne Prayer 2pm - Lancefield Music
<b>13</b> <b>Advent 3</b> 9am - Romsey, Tylden, & Kyneton 9:30am - Gisborne 10:30am - Lancefield, Mt Macedon 11am - Barfold  PM - Romsey & Lancefield Combined Carols TBC	<b>14</b> 6pm - Woodend Tea 7pm - Woodend Service	<b>15</b> 2pm - Gisborne Prayer
<b>20</b> <b>Advent 4</b> 9am - Tylden, & Kyneton 9:30am - Gisborne 10am - Romsey & Lancefield combined in Romsey 10:30am - Mt Macedon 11am - Metcalf 7pm - Community Carols Sutton Grange	<b>21</b> 7:30pm - "Follow the Star" Romsey	<b>22</b> 2pm - Gisborne Prayer 2pm - Lancefield Music 7:30pm - "Follow the Star" Romsey
<b>27</b> <b>Christmas 1</b> 9am - Tylden, & Kyneton 9:30am - Gisborne 10am - Romsey & Lancefield combined in Lancefield 10:30am - Lancefield, Mt Macedon	<b>28</b> 6pm - Woodend Tea 7pm - Woodend Service	<b>29</b> 2pm - Gisborne Prayer

## January 2016

See pages 4 & 5 for services and times. Other events check locally.

Items for February *Partnership in Print* are due in on Sunday 24th January.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <b>7:30pm</b> - JNC Meeting	<b>3</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Advent Study Mt Macedon	<b>4</b> <b>10am</b> - Gisborne Prayer <b>7pm</b> - Gisborne Pizza night	<b>5</b> <b>2pm</b> - Tylden UCAF Afternoon Tea
<b>9</b> ? - Gisborne Church Council meeting <b>7:30pm</b> - Romsey Elders/ Church Council	<b>10</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Advent Study Mt Macedon <b>7:30pm</b> - MSM Introduction at Hoppers Crossing	<b>11</b> <b>10am</b> - Gisborne Prayer <b>11am</b> - Gisborne Craft Group	<b>12</b> <b>9:30am</b> - CoCo at Romsey <b>12:30pm</b> - CoCo Lunch
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Advent Study Mt Macedo	<b>18</b> <b>10am</b> - Gisborne Prayer	<b>19</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> <b>7pm</b> - Kyneton <b>7:30pm</b> - Gisborne, Lancefield & Tylden <b>9pm</b> - Mt Macedon	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> <b>9am</b> - Tylden, Lancefield, Mt Macedon <b>9:30am</b> - Gisborne	<b>26</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		







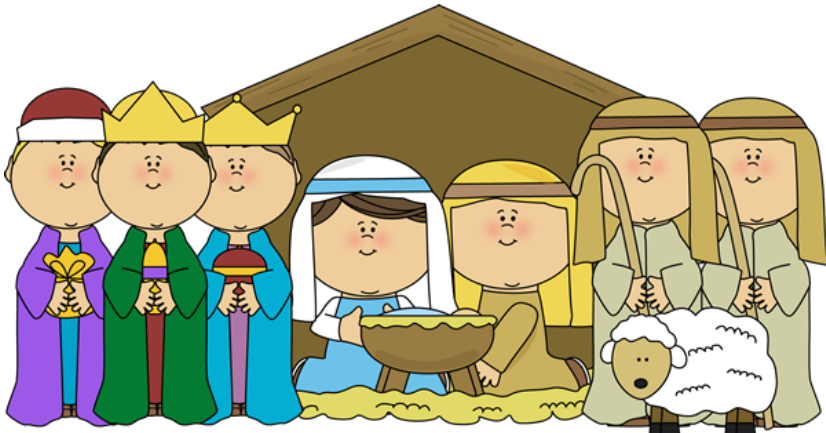
# Follow the Christmas Star

You are invited to meet outside St Paul's Anglican Church in Main Road, Romsey, to walk with Mary, Joseph and their donkey as they search for a place to stop for the night.

Where will they go? Who will they meet on the way?  
What will we discover at the end of the road?

We will be looking for a stable with live animals where we can sing Christmas Carols, see a real new baby, and share some refreshments together.

Parents and children please join us.



**Time:** Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December at 7:30pm (come to either night)

**Dress Up:** Dress up as wise men, or angels, or shepherds or a person from Bethlehem if you wish. There will be costumes available to borrow (adult as well as child sizes).

A free event in association with the churches of Romsey and Lancefield  
Music by the Kyneton Municipal Band  
All Welcome

Questions? Contact: Wendy Elson 0400 042 076 or Jay Brooks 5429 6163



A mum was concerned about her young son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbour if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbour and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbour girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week?"

Do you know her?'

Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.'

The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?'

'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Marcy.'

'Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much.

And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

S	S	E	N	L	U	F	H	T	I	A	F	N	M	R
\$	E	M	R	O	A	R	I	G	H	T	H	A	N	D
E	S	I	O	N	L	U	F	Y	O	J	R	T	E	E
N	O	I	T	A	C	I	D	N	I	Y	M	I	V	L
\$	D	E	R	E	B	M	E	M	E	R	S	O	N	A
U	L	G	U	H	C	R	P	L	C	D	L	N	R	E
O	R	D	M	I	Y	N	L	R	O	O	N	S	O	V
E	O	U	P	L	G	O	E	O	A	M	M	U	H	E
T	W	J	E	L	U	Q	L	S	R	I	B	X	O	R
H	E	E	T	S	A	F	D	A	E	T	S	M	N	S
G	N	O	S	S	U	O	Y	O	J	R	H	E	R	G
I	N	P	E	O	P	L	E	S	A	T	R	L	S	N
R	V	I	C	T	O	R	Y	E	R	D	R	O	L	I
N	E	E	S	H	T	E	L	A	H	A	N	D	S	K
C	L	A	P	S	D	N	E	Q	U	I	T	Y	E	D

## Puzzle Answers

### Missing Words

right hand	horn
holy arm	king
lyre	roar
melody	clap
trumpets	hills

The word you should have ended with is -  
REMEMBERED

# What is the Christmas Bowl?

## The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace

*Contributed by Jeff Wild, Development Officer for Act for Peace in Victoria*

A long-lasting and vital link between those who have enough and those who have too little.

The Christmas Bowl appeal is a cherished tradition amongst our family of churches in Australia. It began on Christmas Day 1949, when a minister named Rev Frank Byatt in Victoria placed a simple empty bowl on the table before him. He humbly asked his friends and family to contribute what they felt the cost of the meal had been.

Rev Byatt asked that they consider their own good fortune in being able to share a Christmas meal together in comfort and safety. And he invited them to share God's blessings of love and friendship in the form of a gift to people who had fled the horrors of World War II and were suffering as refugees.

Today, 2,000 churches from 19 denominations come together every year to share this special tradition and help the world's most vulnerable. This invitation to Australian Christians to stand by men, women and children living through conflict and displacement is, sadly, more important

than ever.

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia and a member of the ACT Alliance, a global network of more than 130 Christian organisations, all working together for change.

We believe in a world where every person is free from suffering caused by conflict and natural disasters. Across the world, we work with local communities so they can prepare for emergencies and respond fast to protect the most vulnerable people when disaster hits. We also lobby governments and decision-makers for positive action which promotes peace and supports people affected by conflict and disaster.



*"I am very proud of the Coffs Coast for rallying behind the purposes of Act for Peace and the Christmas Bowl, in providing support for targeted countries and assisting them to be resilient to global issues." Rev. Jan McLeod, St Nicholas Anglican Church, Sawtell, NSW.*



*"The Willunga Tree Festival is a great way to support the Christmas Bowl, engage with the community and share the Christmas spirit." Jenny Esots, local organiser, Willunga, SA.*

Romsey UCAF members have raised money for Act for Peace by cooking and selling Christmas shortbread & biscuits. Tomato seedlings were also for sale.

# Lectionary Readings Year C

## Advent

A season of preparation, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, in which the church recalls its hope and expectation in the coming of Christ past, present and future..

Date	Day/Season	Co-lour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Sunday 6th Dec	Advent 2	P	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Sunday 13th Dec	Advent 3	P	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Sunday 20th Dec	Advent 4	P	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

## Christmas

The Christmas - Epiphany season includes Christmas Eve/Day and the twelve days of Christmas. It recalls the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ. The church in this time celebrates the wonder of the incarnation, the season concludes with Epiphany. (Any of the selections for Christmas Day 1, 2 or 3 can be used for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)

Date	Day/Season	Co-lour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Thursday 24th Dec	Christmas Eve	W	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Isaiah 62:6-12 Isaiah 52:7-10	96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) Luke 2:1-7 (8-20) John 1:1-14
Friday 25th Dec	Christmas Day	W		97 98	Titus 3:4-7 Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)	
Sunday 27th Dec	Christmas 1	W	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52
Sunday 3rd Jan	Christmas 2	W	Jeremiah 31:7-14	147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1(1-9), 10-18
Friday 1st Jan	New Year's Day	W	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	8	Revelation 21:1-6a	Matthew 25:31-46
Friday 1st Jan	Holy Name of Jesus	W	Numbers 6:22-27	8	Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 2:15-21
Wed 6th Jan (may be celebrated on 3rd Jan)	Epiphany	W	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12

## After Epiphany

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

Date	Day/Season	Co-lour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Sunday 10th Jan	Baptism of Jesus	W	Isaiah 43:1-7	29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sunday 17th Jan	Epiphany 2	G	Isaiah 62:1-5	36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Sunday 24th Jan	Epiphany 3	G	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Sunday 31st Jan	Epiphany 4	G	Jeremiah 1:4-10	71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30



# mission shaped ministry (2016)

an experiential course of learning and relationships, exploring new ways of building communities around the Way of Jesus

**MSM Information Evening:**

**Thursday 10th Dec. 2015**

**7.30-8.30pm** (Light supper provided)

To register contact Adam McIntosh by emailing [themcintoshbunch@hotmail.com](mailto:themcintoshbunch@hotmail.com) or phoning 0414 725 887.

**Venue: Hoppers Crossing Uniting Church**  
235 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing

**STOP PRESS**  
If sufficient interest there will be both  
day and evening courses in 2016.

[www.missionshapedministry.org](http://www.missionshapedministry.org)



**fresh**  
expressions





## introducing the *mission shaped ministry (msm)* course



*msm* originates in the context of new mission initiatives in the UK associated with the 'Fresh Expressions' movement and has been run in Melbourne for the last two years with over 150 participants. (see [www.freshexpressions.org](http://www.freshexpressions.org) / [www.missionshapedministry.org](http://www.missionshapedministry.org))

*msm* is running ecumenically internationally with more than 2000 students enrolled.

This one-year, part-time course takes participants on an imaginative learning journey as part of a supportive community, training them for ministry in fresh expressions of church.

### **msm is about**

- developing a culture of mission in local communities
- acquiring the necessary values and practices to begin, grow and sustain a fresh expression of the gospel.

### *mission shaped ministry (msm)* is for

- gaining mission ideas and skills
- strengthening commitments to mission where we are
- developing fresh expressions of church.

### *mission shaped ministry (msm)* course modules for 2016

#### **Foundations and Active Discernment**

- Community Building
- Mission context and the mixed economy
- The mission of God
- What is church?

#### **Development of Initiatives**

- Gospel and culture
- Evangelism strategies
- Small group church
- Team roles and behaviour

#### **Equipping and Getting Started**

- Vision and call
- Missional values
- Starting something new
- Listening for mission

#### **Ongoing Development and Sustaining New Initiatives**

- Spirituality for mission
- Growing a fresh expression to maturity
- Making Disciples

### *msm* course cost

\$100 per person.

### to register contact

Adam McIntosh by [emailing](mailto:themcintoshbunch@hotmail.com) [themcintoshbunch@hotmail.com](mailto:themcintoshbunch@hotmail.com) or [phoning](tel:0414725887) 0414 725 887.

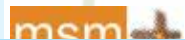
### **Australian msm participants say**

**"The course helped me to meet many others who have daring dreams of making contact and building relationship with vital communities for who (traditional) church may never have been a place of welcome."**

Lillie McLaughlin

**"If you believe, like me that the church needs to make some refreshing changes to have a healthy future in Australia, do this course and be a part of the change. It's inspiring, practical and ecumenical."**

Karen Paull



Four members from the Partnership (2 from Romsey and 2 from Tylden) completed this course in 2015. Several others attended in 2014. Will YOU try it next year? If you are interested go to the Information Evening as advertised on the opposite page.

# Christmas Day - Sing to the Lord a new song - Wordsearch

## Psalm 98

Psalm 98 has been printed below. There are a few words missing. You first need to fill in these blanks then find those words and all the other underlined words hidden in the grid. The words are in straight lines but can be forwards, backwards, up, down and even diagonal. Once all the words have been found you will notice that there are a number of letters that have not been used. Copy down these letters row by row and you will find they spell out a word. This is the answer to the puzzle.

S	S	E	N	L	U	F	H	T	I	A	F	N	M	R
S	E	M	R	O	A	R	I	G	H	T	H	A	N	D
E	S	I	O	N	L	U	F	Y	O	J	R	T	E	E
N	O	I	T	A	C	I	D	N	I	V	M	I	V	L
S	D	E	R	E	B	M	E	M	E	R	S	O	N	A
U	L	G	U	H	C	R	P	L	C	D	L	N	R	E
O	R	D	M	I	Y	N	L	R	O	O	N	S	O	V
E	O	U	P	L	G	O	E	O	A	M	M	U	H	E
T	W	J	E	L	U	O	L	S	R	I	B	I	O	R
H	E	E	T	S	A	F	D	A	E	T	S	M	N	S
G	N	O	S	S	U	O	Y	O	J	R	H	E	R	G
I	N	P	E	O	P	L	E	S	A	T	P	L	S	N
R	V	I	C	T	O	R	Y	E	R	D	R	O	L	I
N	E	E	S	H	T	E	L	A	H	A	N	D	S	K
C	L	A	P	S	D	N	E	Q	U	I	T	Y	E	D

O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_  
have gotten him victory.  
The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

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○—————○

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the \_\_\_\_\_ and the sound of \_\_\_\_\_.  
With \_\_\_\_\_ and the sound of the \_\_\_\_\_  
make a joyful noise before the \_\_\_\_\_, the LORD.  
Let the sea \_\_\_\_\_, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods \_\_\_\_\_ their hands;  
let the \_\_\_\_\_ sing together for joy  
at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

(NRSV)

Answer on page 15

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

## 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>
<p><b><u>CoCo</u></b> - (Co-ordinating Council)</p>	<p><u>Finance &amp; Manse Committee</u>                  Robert Renton - Chair, Paul Gildertson - Treasurer                  Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman &amp; Bronwyn Hewitt.</p>	<p><u>Website</u>                  (In preparation)</p>

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