

Partnership in Print




Uniting Church in Australia - Macedon Ranges Partnership

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

Issue No 18 - February 2017

Season - Epiphany 5 - Transfiguration

Sometimes a
break from
your routine is
the very thing
you need.




Don't let LIFE
be just a routine!
Make it an adventure!

If not now
WHEN?



GOD?



When God interrupts
our routine,
He's offering us an
opportunity to
experience Him in
new ways.



transfor**mation**



When I go on holidays, my routine changes, I often attend worship in different locations, at different times and in different styles to what I am used to. Because my routines are disrupted, I see things happening in the community I am visiting. I notice people walking their dogs, jogging, going to a market or in their gardens all the while I am travelling to or from the service I am attending.

I start to wonder. I wonder what they believe? I wonder if God matters to them? I wonder what it is that drives them? I wonder how the church can connect with many of these people? I wonder ...

I found myself over January asking much the same questions. Different services, different times and different locations. But I also found others were asking similar questions as well. "I wonder why we don't have anyone under 50s coming to church?" "I wonder what will connect with people better?" "I'm not sure about this type of service – it's OK for a change but will it bring anyone in?" "We get lots of people to our weekday activity group but can't get those people to church – how do we do that?"

Great questions! Genuine concerns. A desire expressed to find a way to reconnect. An awareness that the church is no longer a place of importance to the wider community. Uncertainty named. So what do we do?

The first thing we often try is to change our worship styles. The problem with that is that the people who come to church now do so because they like it that way. Changing worship styles seems to stir the pot and it is easier to go back to what we know. Yet going back takes us back to where we were and a never ending cycle of slow decline is created. And so a tension is fermented.

We may try to play with other familiar approaches. We create groups that we think might connect, we plan or even run events, we consult, we hire out our facilities but with all of these we get tired and seem to go nowhere.

It's all too hard we say! Help! Just what do we do?

What a wonderful spot to get to! Yes, it is. It is that place where we finally stop trying to do what we think we know and start listening. We start asking questions and instead of presuming the answers, we wait, we listen and we seek after God's heart.

We listen to each other. We hear each other's passions. We notice each other's giftedness. We allow each to express their care and ministry.

We listen to those in the church, but more so in the community. We listen to our neighbour's questions. We listen to our colleagues' and their concerns. We notice the things going on around us and we start to see the hurts and needs.

If in such a space and time, we also seek after God's heart, we may well be surprised with what

comes up. The journey we began no longer feels so onerous. We may not be doing our preferred style but it won't matter because something more important is happening. We find our spirits stirred, not so much in that old uncomfortable way, but with a passion and drive to be a blessing to others.

When we switch to listening and seeking after God, we change our focus. It is no longer on ourselves and what suits us. We instead start to take to heart our call to join with God in God's mission. This is a journey of transformation.

Over this last month, things have been done differently. You may have gone to different congregations to worship. You may have tried different styles of worship. You may have met new people. I hope questions have been stirred in you. I hope you have been able to ponder. And if you have found things hard, rejoice! For God is moving among us!

Rev Peter Cannon

Around the Partnership

To encourage you to think of the Partnership as your home, not just the Congregation you attend, this section of Partnership in Print is laid out differently to previous editions. This month items are placed according to Activity types. You are encouraged to attend activities that interest you across the partnership. For example you may live in Kyneton but would like to hear the Gilbertson's talk at the Gisborne UCAF about their trip to Arnhem Land or join the Romsey folk for pancake tea you are welcome.

Prayer & Worship

Ash Wednesday

In 2017 Ash Wednesday occurs on the **1st March**. Three worship services each half-hour long will be held within the Partnership.

Riddells Creek 9am (usual weekly worship at the office), Kyneton 6pm and Lancefield either afternoon or evening. TBC.

World Day of Prayer Friday 3rd March

Services will be held at

Gisborne Uniting Church at 10am

Romsey Uniting Church time yet TBA

Community Labyrinth Walks

Community labyrinth walks will be held on the following dates at Kyneton Catholic Church Labyrinth (opposite UCA).

Tuesday 28th February

Tuesday 21st March

These meditative prayer walks are conducted at **6pm** and are followed by a bring and share picnic tea. This is a precious time for the community and the church to meet together. Please consider attending. They are a great way to pray.

Remember too that there are meditation prayer groups happening in most of our towns. Please contact me if you are interested in attending one to check it out.

Worship Leaders

	Service time	5th February	12th February	19th February	26th February
Sutton Grange	11am				Wendy Elson Baptism
Mia Mia	11am			TBA	
Barfold	11am	TBA			
Metcalfe	11am		Annette Buckley - HC		
Kyneton	9:30am	Annette Buckley	Andrea Strack	Rex Fisher - HC	Pip Elston
RM Begg	3:30pm				Monday 27th Feb
Lancefield	10:45am	TBA	Robert Renton - HC	TBA	TBA
Romsey	9am	Jay Brooks	Robert Renton - HC	TBA	Worship Team
	6pm			Meg Evans	
Tylden	9am	Peter Cannon - HC	TBA	TBA	TBA
Woodend	5pm				Annette Buckley
Mt Macedon	10:30am	Max Woolcock	Meg Evans - HC	Max Woolcock	D'Arcy Wood
Riddells Creek	9am	Wednesdays			
Gisborne	9:30am	Paul Gilbertson	Isobelle Gossip	Margaret Woolner	Annette Buckley - HC

Bible Study & Worship Preparation Dates *See notes next page*

Tuesday 7:30pm session venue & date		Wednesday 10am session venue & date		Week preparing for	
Kyneton	31st Jan	Tylden	1st Feb	Epiphany 6	12th Feb
Gisborne	7th Feb	Northern - Metcalfe	8th Feb	Epiphany 7	19th Feb
2 weeks break while Peter is on leave					
Tylden	28th Feb	Northern - Metcalfe (10:30am)	1st Mar	Lent 2	12th Mar

Bible Study & Worship Prep Sessions

Notes:

- See page 20 to find the Lectionary readings set for the week you are preparing.
- Peter is on leave from 10th Feb and returns Monday 27th Feb. During this time, there will be no sessions. He is available to support and resource anyone who requires assistance prior to going on leave. Just give him a call.

- The session on 1st March in Kyneton will start a little later at 10:30am due to the Ash Wednesday service at Riddells Creek.
- The web site should be checked regularly in case there are any changes to the plan.
- All Tuesday sessions start at 7:30pm and Wednesday sessions 10am unless otherwise noted.

Special Events

Sing a New Song to the Lord Lent &



Easter

Most congregations sing only a fraction of the hymns and songs in "Together in Song". It's worth exploring some of the others!

A workshop will be held at Gisborne UC on

Sunday 5th February,

concentrating on hymns and songs for Lent and Easter. These seasons cover 90 days in the Christian calendar.

The workshop is designed to help worship leaders and musicians, but everyone is welcome.

A group from Gisborne will lead the singing. We begin at 12:30pm with a BYO lunch.

Tea and coffee will be provided and the singing will begin at about 1:15pm.

If you want a double dose of music and be part of the singing group contact D'Arcy for details about the rehearsal, which will be on Saturday 4th at 2pm at Gisborne UC.

Enquiries to Annette Buckley or D'Arcy Wood.

Pancakes at Gisborne

On **Saturday 25th February** the Gisborne Congregation will be having a Pancake Day at the IGA Supermarket from 9am until 12:30pm

Pancakes at Romsey

On **Shrove Tuesday 28th February** members of the Romsey congregation will gather for a pancake tea from 6pm at the church. Batter provided. Check out the list at the church for what to bring. Members from other congregations are welcome to join us give Jay a call to find out what you can bring. Donations collected for Uniting Care.



Peter Barcham Lecture

Dr Rachael Kohn will deliver the annual Peter Barcham Lecture on **Monday 6th March** at 7:30pm.

Rachael has hosted "The Spirit of Things" on ABC radio for many years and has won awards for her books and broadcasts.

She has been nominated as one of the 50 most influential thinkers in Australia.

Her topic is "Faith has nothing to fear". In an email she says she will discuss some of the "fearsome things in our environment".

The lecture is the eighth in the series and will be held at Gisborne UC in Brantome Street.

Meetings

Romsey Church Council

The first meeting for 2017 will be a dinner meeting at 6pm on **Wednesday 1st February** at the home of Sandra and David Strack.

World Day of Prayer Planning

World Day of Prayer planning meeting for the Romsey/Lancefield Eccumenical Service will be at Romsey UC at 10am on **Friday 3rd February** at 10am.

The country of focus is The Philippines and the theme is 'Am I being unfair to you?'

CoCo

The first meeting of the Partnership Co-ordinating Council is at 9:30am at Woodend Uniting Church on **Saturday 4th February**.

Please note that the meeting dates have changed from previous years. CoCo will meet on the first Saturday of the month during 2017.

Woodend/Tylden Op Shop

At 10am on **Wednesday 8th February** the Op Shop are holding an open meeting including AGM at the Woodend church hall.

Tylden Church Council

After the service at Tylden on **Sunday 12th February** the Church Council AGM will be held followed by a general meeting.

Woodend/Tylden Cluster AGM

On **Wednesday 22nd February** the Woodend/Tylden Cluster will meet at 7:30pm at Woodend. The AGM will be followed by a general meeting.

Minister's Leave

Wendy will be on leave from the 2nd til 25th February. Peter from 10th to 26th February.

Clubs and Groups

Kyneton Chat'n Chew



St. Andrew's, Kyneton have decided to re-start their monthly social lunch gathering at Kaddy's Cafe, 8

High St, Kyneton. The first one will be on **Friday 24th February** 2017 at 12 noon. Kaddy's has a large room where we can sit and chat without too much disturbance to or from other patrons of the cafe. All are welcome, but to make it easier for Kaddy's staff, please inform Jenny Elston (M: 0408 237 263, E: jenny.elston@bigpond.com) if you plan to attend.

This is a fun social time where we can get to know each other better, and have the opportunity for stimulating conversation.

Friends Group

On **Friday 3rd February** the Gisborne Friends Group meets at the home of Janet and D'Arcy Wood at 6:30pm.

Mt Macedon Men's Group

Mt Macedon Men's Group resumes **Tuesday 7th February** at the Church at 10am.

Tylden UCAF

The first meeting for the Tylden Uniting Church Adult Fellowship in 2017 will be their AGM at the Tylden church on **Tuesday 7th February** at 1:30pm.

Romsey UCAF

Romsey UCAF will commence 2017 with a gathering at 1:30pm on **Wednesday 8th February** in the meeting room.

Muffin'n More

The Muffin'n More will be held at the Gisborne Church on **Tuesday 14th February** from 10am until 12noon.

Craft Group

The Craft Group will follow after Muffin's at Gisborne on **Tuesday 14th February** at 12noon till 2pm. BYO lunch.

Mt Macedon Thistle Club

The Mt Macedon Thistle Club are starting the year with a Commitment Service and Catch-Up at 2pm at the Church on **Wednesday 22nd February**.

Gisborne UCAF

GUC Fellowship begins its year with Bev and Paul Gilbertson sharing their travel experiences in Arnhem Land. They will talk and show slides on **Monday 20th February**, at the Church from 1:30 pm. Everyone is most welcome!

Mission

Woodend/Tylden Op Shop News

A very enjoyable morning tea was held in November. Members of all the groups who received donations explained their ongoing work and how our contributions would be used. Thank yous were extended to all our volunteers who give so much in time and effort.

The shop has been inundated with goods since the beginning of December and the volunteers as well as their normal shop work, have spent extra time at the Woodend Church Hall sorting.

**sale
half price**

We currently have a half price sale with many enthusiastic shoppers seeking bargains and all those working in the shop sharing in camaraderie and outreach.

MONSTER GARAGE SALE

St Andrews Uniting Church
Ebden St Kyneton
Saturday 11th February
from 8:30am till 12:30pm

Would You Like To Help?

Every three months the Kyneton Uniting Church conducts a large and fascinating garage sale of an amazing collection of treasures.

On a given day wonderful bargains can be picked up for a scrap of money which has the double effect of pleasing the buyer at getting a treat and doubly delighting the donor at seeing funds being raised for a very worthy cause as well as a once loved article being given a new home.

The day is busy and enjoyable.

We could not continue without the help of lots of kind and willing people, some of whom come for an hour or two, others having a bit more spare time stay longer.

We welcome anyone who can help any time between 7:30am until packing up. The first for this year is on the 11th February

If you think you have an hour to spare please phone Joan Mills 5423 9141 and leave a message with your number.

Mission continued over page

Shoeboxes

We have had a report that all of the 150 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes that Romsey took to the Mitcham warehouse in November have been sent to Thailand. They arrived there on the 24th December and will be being distributed now.

We have been watching the back-to-school sales this past month and been scooping up bargains for this year's collection. One of the best deals has been 48 page exercise books at Officeworks. The catch being that you were only allowed to purchase 30 books per customer. Jay visited 3 different stores on her way home from visiting her parents adding less than 1 kilometre to her normal journey.



Woodend Op Shop window during Advent last year

Artfull Faith Activities

VicTas Art & Spirituality Network. This group is open to all artists and people interested in art. It meets at 12:30pm on the first Saturday of the month, usually at the CTM, for shared lunch, fellowship, reflection, speakers, art activities. February and May will be different...



4th February - Indigenous Art. Guided tour of NGV Indigenous Collection and *Sovereignty* at ACCA.

\$8.50 per person.

Book early, max. 24 participants

Meet 1:15 pm in NGV Fed Square foyer.

Register: ctm.uca.edu.au/artfullfaith by 30 January

5th May - Launch of Art for Wellbeing exhibition, 5pm at SacredEdge Festival, Queenscliff Uniting Church

11-13th May - Symposium, 'Australia and "The Divine Image"



The 64th Blake Prize Touring Exhibition, Kinross Arts Centre, 603 Toorak Rd, Toorak

Exhibition runs 7 April – 26 May 2017.

There is also information on the website about the Contemplative Photography Network: first Saturday of the month, 2 – 4pm,

Poetry as Contemplative Practice: Saturday 18th March, 1:30pm – 5pm in Clifton Hill Story Space, a facilitated practice for storytellers at the CTM on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30pm

More information about any of these activities: ctm.uca.edu.au/artfull-faith, or contact Annette Buckley for details.

Baptisms in January

We have been fortunate to welcome several children into the life of the Church and the Partnership through baptism over the last month.

Isabelle Grace was baptised at Mt Macedon church on Saturday 7th January, while her family was here for a visit from overseas. They are hoping to return to live in Riddells Creek at some stage in the future, and we look forward to seeing them when they are able to join us. The 7th was a significant day for Isabelle's family, as her family background includes Ukrainian heritage, and the 7th January is when the Ukrainian church celebrates Christmas.

On the next day, we welcomed Felix, Imogen and Frances and their family and friends to Mt Macedon for a baptism of all three children during a service which aimed to help all of the children worship in a way that was appropriate for them. Teddy bears, picnic rugs and iced biscuits were included in a celebration which the children particularly appreciated.

On Sunday 22nd January we opened up the Riddells Creek church to welcome Jacob for his baptism along with a large contingent of family and friends, who were also celebrating his first birthday. Jacob had already had a starring role in the life of the Partnership, playing baby Jesus at the 'Follow the Star' in Romsey in December, with his parents, Grant and Nyree, as Joseph and Mary (*see page 19*).

We are very grateful for the opportunity to be part of the journey these children will make with God. We are blessed to be able to get to know them and their families, and for the contribution they have made to our lives. Please remember the children and their families and friends in your prayers.



Annette, Chris, Iryna and baby Isabelle Grace at Mt Macedon on Saturday 7th January.



Baby Jacob enjoyed his day. Annette's nose proved an interesting plaything.



Grant, Jacob, Nyree (centre) with Godparents, Nicol and Michael (either end) at Riddells Creek on Sunday 22nd January

Watery Advent Wreaths

This last Advent all the churches in the Partnership were encouraged to use a Watery Advent Wreath rather than the candles that have been used for many years.

Annette Buckley had written the liturgy for the water wreath at least 10 years ago. The Romsey Congregation used it in 2013 long before we knew Annette.

The idea behind using water instead of candles is that the images of candles representing light coming into darkness is appropriate in a dull Northern hemisphere winter but here in Australia in summer, as we go into our bush-fire season, flames are the last thing we want to experience. One of the things that gives life to us at this time of year is water.

Congregations used the water image in different ways. Mt Macedon and Romsey used water from different sources ie tap water, dam water, creek water etc. The wreaths were laid out in imaginative ways. Some neat and orderly, others used natural props. Tylden's was extensive and extended the water theme creating a river which was updated each week with Australian animals and native wildflowers.



Left: Tylden's wreath, below: Romsey's wreath



Other News

Woodend News

While we are still waiting to have full access to our church and grounds, the Woodend congregation has not been idle. Monthly worship with a shared meal has kept our congregation in touch, and many of us have also enjoyed services with Tylden church. Council has continued to meet in the hall foyer, and it has been with great pleasure that we hosted a Partnership service last Sunday, led by Peter, where we welcomed people from across the Macedon Ranges and beyond to share a meal and a beautiful contemplative service. Hopefully it won't be long before we can

start our working bees, and all volunteers will be welcome to those as well!

Meanwhile the Woodend Op Shop has been making good use of the hall to sort huge quantities of donated goods. The volunteer teams have worked hard for weeks now, moving quality items through the shop and continuing to witness the presence of our church in this community.

The Woodend AGM will be held on **Sunday 26th February**, following an evening fellowship and shared meal starting at 5:30. Annette will be leading this, and all Woodend members should be sure to come along.

Snippets

These snippets have been forwarded by Doug McIver from "Witty, Wise and Otherwise" - January 2017 by Les Hartshorn a retired UCA minister, NSW Synod.

"Speaking only the language of hope and a suitcase of sacrifices when you reached these shores you found a way through the darkness There was no welcome when you arrived. What a lottery it is when and where you were born and how the world treats you.

"I hope we make you proud with the work we do helping refugees and others in need of safety and opportunity. It's your faces I see in each of them. I see the power of love, compassion and standing up for what is right that you instilled in us."

(Kon Karapanagiotidis, CEO of Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, from an open letter to his parents)

The International Monetary Fund has emphasised that refugee arrivals in Europe will be a source of long-term benefit in the region, addressing skills gaps, labour shortages and an ageing population.

(Jane McAdam, a director of the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW)

Bible riddles:

Which Bible character had no parents?

Joshua. He was a son of Nun.

Who is the most famous baby-sitter mentioned in the Bible?

David. When he was just a boy he rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

Why couldn't they play cards on the Ark during the Great Flood?

Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

February 2017

5 Epiphany 5

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)
 11am - Worship at Barfold
 12:30pm - BYO Lunch at Gisborne
 1:30pm - 'Sing a New Song' at Gisborne

6

7

10am - Mt Macedon
 Men's Group
 1:30pm - Tylden UCAF
 7:30pm - Bible Study at
 Gisborne

12 Epiphany 6

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton
 10am - Tylden AGM
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)
 11am - Worship at Metcalfe

13

14

10am - Muffin'n More at
 Gisborne
 12noon - Gisborne Craft

19 Epiphany 7

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey (TBA)
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (TBA)
 11am - Worship at Mia Mia
 6pm - Worship at Romsey@6

20

21

1:30pm - Gisborne UCAF

26 Transfiguration

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)
 11am - Worship at Sutton Grange
 5:30pm - Woodend meal, fellowship & AGM

27

28 Shrove Tuesday

6pm - Pancake tea at
 Romsey
 7:30pm - Bible Study at
 Tylden

A few jokes from Rev Bob McClelland's "Bob McClelland's Good Heavens not another joke book"

- Bob grew up in the Mallee - some parts are very dry - when it rained for forty days and forty nights Managatang only got forty points.
- Ending his temperance sermon the preacher said "All whisky and beer should be thrown in the river, . . . "And now we will sing our closing hymn 'Shall we gather at the river'"

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am - Bible Study at Tylden 6pm - Romsey Church Council	2	3 10am - World Day of Prayer planning at Romsey 6:30pm - Gisborne Friends	4 9:30am - CoCo at Woodend
8 10am - Bible Study at Metcalf 10am - Woodend Op Shop AGM 1:30pm - Romsey UCAF	9	10	11 8:30am - Garage Sale Kyneton
15	16	17	18 9:30am - Presbytery Meeting
22 2pm - Mt Macedon Thistle Club 7:30pm - Woodend Tylden Cluster AGM	23	24 12noon - Kyneton Chat'n Chew	25 9am - Pancakes at IGA Gisborne

- Speaking to the children at morning service the minister asked "How did Jesus feed the five people with the five thousand loaves of bread and three thousand fishes?" The children laughed, and later, when he realised his mistake, he felt he must redeem himself next Sunday. Next week when it came to the children's address he said " Well children, how did Jesus feed the five thousand people with the five loaves and three fishes". Little Billy answered "With what you had left over from last week Reverend!"
- One minister asked the children in a Geelong Church "What would you do if Jesus came to Geelong?" hoping for all sorts of lofty answers. One child said "Move Ablett to centre half forward."
- *Not all jokes are fiction, this did happen.* A policeman pulled a motorist over for speeding and asked him where he came from and he replied "Pura Pura" - "Where the blazes is that"? asked the policeman. The motorist said "Half way between Nerrin Nerrin and Vite Vite." By now thoroughly confused the policeman let him go.

Coco Report for Meeting held Saturday December 10th 2016 at Kyneton UC

Welcome: - Chairperson Colin welcomed us. He also welcomed John Evans who is taking the place of Robert Renton as Presbytery Representative. John's title is Interim Presbytery Minister – Administration.

Devotions: - Peter Cannon led us and had us select from a collection of cards with a different thought on each and to relate them to our dreams for the Congregation of our Churches.

AGM: - Colin handed over to John Evans to conduct our AGM.

Colin, Sina, Bronwyn and Paul were thanked for their work over 2016.

Officer Bearers for 2017 elected unanimously are –

Chairperson: Colin Chapman

Deputy Chairperson: Sina Smale

Secretary: Position still open

Treasurer: Paul Gilbertson

Thanks to those willing to accept Office.

Ordinary Meeting: - Our Ordinary Meeting then commenced.

Minutes of Previous Meeting were accepted.

Correspondence:

Info re Community Christmas lunch

Leadership Info for 2017 from Presbytery. An intensive course titled 'Living Leadership' is to be promoted.

Minister's Report: - This month's Minister's Report was from Peter Cannon. He reported on his leadership of Worship Preparation and Bible Studies. Check PIP and especially the Website for up to date info on locations for these. Ecumenical interaction with Church of Christ re presence in Riddells Creek. Involvement in Riddells Creek Festival. Anglicans also involved in Riddells Creek Carols. Also many other hap-

penings around the Partnership that he has been involved in.

Agreement was reached in principle to having a banner made for the Partnership to display at community events.

26th March is Neighbour Day – maybe have a BBQ in the local community. All Churches to participate. Gisborne have a happening organised for March 19th. Information on this to be publicised in January.

Ministers authorised to buy supplies for Baptisms to keep at the Church Office.

Property Committee: - guidelines to be held over till 2017.

Riddells Creek: - Riddells Creek handover arrangements in train. Mentioned that there is no process to clean and maintain Church Office.

Labyrinth at Riddells Creek mentioned – Ministers to look at existing labyrinths and select a suitable design. Then Working Bee to be organised.

Worship at CoCo meetings: - Worship Component for Coco meetings discussed. Devotions to be done by the Church hosting the meeting. If an individual church is not comfortable with this, please speak to the Ministers.

Chairing Coco meetings: - discussed. (Manual For Meetings). This is a skill to be learned. Darcy and Annette will discuss this and bring thoughts to the next Coco Meeting.

Worship: - Watery Advent generally well received.

January 29th - 5th Sunday Combined Service – See PIP or Website for details. Meet near big shelter in Kyneton Botanical Gardens.

A couple of Churches will run other Services to those publicised for January if they feel their

Church is closed for too long. Peter will continue Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning sessions through January so Churches will be utilised.

Make sure all Congregations know the January worship arrangements.

Safe Church: – Not all completed. Every member of Church Council needs a Working With Children ratification. Darcy investigating this – seems a bit over-the-top for Churches with the whole Congregation as the Council.

D'Arcy has four points for Safe Church accreditation –

- Appoint Coordinator
- Working With Children Cards and inform Synod
- Adopt Code of Conduct
- Attend Training Day

Bronwyn has tried to source another Training Day in our area – maybe one can be organised in early 2017.

Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders: – similar to Safe Church but a few extra steps. Will deal with this next Coco Meeting.

Extreme or Code Red days: - Some discussion on Extreme or Code Red days – some Churches need to finalise their policy on this. Coco Meetings will be cancelled if Extreme or Code Red.

After a delicious morning tea – thank you Kyneton – we went outside for an exercise on leaving things behind and moving into the unknown. Our next stage of planning will be put together with input from Rose Broadstock in 2017. Probably in the direction of Pastoral Care, Social Justice etc.

Calendar: Draft Calendar, timetable etc. circulated for Feb, March, April.

Financial Report: Paul submitted his report. Pointed out we will be short of funds over the - longer term. Some discussion on how to ad-

dress this. Contributions for stipend payment to be increased by 2 ½% in the new year to reflect increase in salaries. Maybe some fund raising needs to be considered. Finance Committee will meet to do some forward planning.

Macedon Ranges Partnership Logo – Two prototypes submitted – we voted on which one we liked.

Website: Request from Ministers not to make a highlight of Weddings. Lot of work involved for the Ministers.

Signage: A question from Doug McIvor from Kyneton regarding uniform signage on Partnership Churches. We will eventually have uniform signage.

Secretary: As we currently have no appointed Secretary for Coco, a volunteer to take the Minutes at the February meeting was called for. Eventually Anne Fyfield put up her hand. Hopefully a different person will do this each meeting until the Secretarial position is resolved.

Congregational Reports: Most Churches proceeding as normal. Woodend still trying to sort out their building problems. Lancefield had a great 150th celebration. Romsey looking forward to “Follow The Star” evening. Congregations enjoying break-up celebrations of groups together.

Paul informed us of a book entitled “Turning Church” – giving examples of new expressions of Worship. Available to borrow from Paul.

Blue Christmas services to be held in three locations across the Partnership.

Keep checking website for info about World Human Rights Day.

Then many for us went to the Albion Hotel for our Coco Break-Up lunch and a good time of fellowship together.

Next CoCo meeting is at Woodend 4th February

A Labyrinth at Riddells Creek



A Labyrinth is an interactive installation for spiritual journeys. Labyrinths have a long history in many cultures and religions. In the Christian tradition, they date from before the 12th Century and have experienced a resurgence of interest in the 21st Century. A labyrinth is a meandering pathway that takes a person on a symbolic journey, creating a space to unwind, think and pray. People walk the labyrinth slowly, as an aid to contemplative prayer and reflection, as a spiritual exercise or as a form of pilgrimage. Contemporary versions can include places (stations) at intervals along the pathway for a person to pause, reflect and pray. Labyrinths, because of their broader cultural connections are also a gentle way to engage people outside the Christian community. Many Churches today are building them to aid in their mission and connection with people who wish to explore their spirituality and faith.

The Labyrinth is simply an aid to prayer. The Labyrinth is not a “maze” as there are no false paths or tricks to be overcome. Instead we simply walk the path to the centre, rest a little, take some time to meditate and pray and walk the same way out again.

The Labyrinth is a path that mirrors our spiritual journey over a life-time, or when facing a particular concern or challenge, or when, in the here and now of today, we value this “tool” as a discipline of prayer over a few minutes or as long as is desired. It is one way among many others of attending to our journey with God, “getting down to earth” and focusing on the centre of life.

Scripture abounds with reference to God’s people as a “pilgrim people”, a people on the move to a promise end. Here is a symbol or model of this pilgrimage for and to Christ. It is an invitation to encounter Jesus on the road (Luke 24:13-35) or the risen Christ “on the way”.

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Walking the Labyrinth

- Pause outside the Labyrinth. Prayerfully commit yourself to the experience and to be open to what comes or even to “nothing much” seeming to happen except taking a time of quiet walking meditation.
- Some choose to consciously put aside the day’s business while others decide to take what is on their mind into the walk so that some sifting and discerning may occur.
- Usually it is helpful to walk quite slowly and at an even pace paying some attention to the twists and turns of the path. If you meet another person, share responsibility to silently move past each other. Leave a little space for the person in front.
- When you get to the central area, pause. You might like to pray, do a breath meditation, to talk with Jesus or simply be still in God’s presence. When in a group, you may choose to pause in the centre to hear a scripture passage read or a prayer said aloud before returning on the outward journey, retracing the same path but in reverse.



Sketch of proposed Labyrinth design for Riddells Creek grounds. It was laid out during January and construction work will begin in February.

Follow the Star

at Romsey on Wednesday 21st December

On a very pleasant evening a few days before Christmas people, young and old, gathered outside the Romsey Anglican Church, many dressed in nativity costume, to walk down the main street of Romsey and hear the Christmas story told anew. The angel storyteller (aka Annette Buckley wearing 'L' plates around her neck) told the story by getting the children to correct her bumbling attempts.

It takes many people and a lot of effort to prepare for this event each year. Special thanks to those who organised and ran the BBQ at the Catholic church prior to the walk, Annette for taking on the storytelling role, the Kyneton Municipal Band for the music 'on the way' and in the UC grounds, Sally, and her son Tristan, from Parklands Farm for bringing the well behaved donkey and other animals, Nyree, Grant and son Jacob for playing Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the 'stable' and all the Romsey and Partnership members for their assistance in planning, sewing, cooking, chasing hay bails, transporting equipment and costumes, mowing the grass, preparing the 'stable' and those who donated money for the food and animals. I am sorry if I have missed anyone in particular. If you helped, consider yourself thanked as it couldn't have happened with your help.

Jay Brooks



Above: the walk approaching the church grounds. Below: hearing about the angels and shepherds





*Grant, Nyree and baby Jacob were a wonderful Holy Family.
Jacob was baptised at a service at Riddells Creek on Sunday 22nd January*



Adults gathered around the 'stable'. The children were closer and in the 'stable'.

Port Phillip West Prayer Cycle

Suggested prayer – We pray for Uniting Church Agencies, Congregations and Synods together with the Ministry Agents who serve God in their various placements. Lord, guide and bless your work in our Presbyteries.

I have not been able to track a cycle down for this year yet. Suggest general prayers for Presbytery office bearers, congregational Presbytery representatives and the Presbytery meeting on Saturday 18th February.

February	Location	
5th Feb		
12th Feb		
19th Feb		
26th Feb		

Macedon Ranges Partnership Prayer Cycle

Day	Congregation/s	Topic	Day	Congregation/s	Topic
Sun	Northern Congregations	Friends	Thu	Riddells Creek, Office & Staff	MR Partnership
Mon	Kyneton	Family	Fri	Mt Macedon	Homeless
Tue	Lancefield & Romsey	Concerns	Sat	Gisborne	Current Affairs
Wed	Tylden & Woodend	World Events			

Lectionary Readings Year A

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. On the last Sunday, we hear the readings for the Transfiguration of the Lord. The length of this period varies depending on the date of Easter.

Date	Day/Season	Col	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Sunday 5th February	Epiphany 5	G	Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)	112:1-9 (10)	1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20
Sunday 12th February	Epiphany 6	G	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Sunday 19th February	Epiphany 7	G	Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18	119:33-40	1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23	Matthew 5:38-48
Sunday 26th February	Transfiguration Sunday	W	Exodus 24:12-18	2 or 99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9

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	Col	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Wednesday 1st March	Ash Wednesday	P	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
Sunday 5th March	Lent 1	P	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Sunday 12th March	Lent 2	P	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17, or Matthew 17:1-9

Directory removed for privacy

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

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/##>

29th Jan - 4th Feb	Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia
5th - 11th Feb	Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City
12th - 18th Feb	Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland
19th - 25th Feb	France, Germany, Monaco
26th Feb - 4th Mar	Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Directory removed for privacy

Contacts Other Groups

<p><u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> <u>MIA MIA</u> <u>BARFOLD</u> <u>METCALFE</u></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>
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<p><u>LANCEFIELD</u></p>	<p><u>Elders</u> Peter Fraser, Ian Kennedy Judy Stammers, Rita Vandervalk</p>	<p><u>Classical Music Group</u> Ian Kennedy <u>Organist</u> - Rita Vandervalk</p>
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<p><u>TYLDEN</u></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><u>WOODEND</u></p>		
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Address Label

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



Printing donated by
 Copy for the next Edition is due by
 Sunday evening 19th February 2017

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