

Partnership in Print

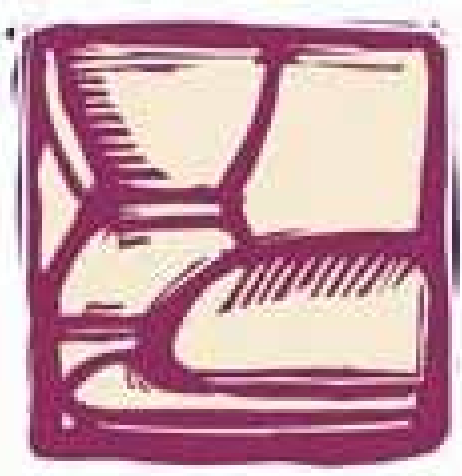


Uniting Church in Australia - Macedon Ranges Partnership

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

Issue No 20 - April 2017

Seasons - Lent 5 - Easter 3





Who are these people and where are they taking us?!

I thought it may be useful to you all to hear a bit more about how your ministry team operates and how we spend our time. Perhaps a little bit more about why our roles are different as well.

When you asked your Joint Nominating Committee to find you three ministers you asked for three specifically different ministers as you had different things in mind for us. Yet we also had to be able to work together well and so you provided us with some good support toward this end. You asked for us to have one very specific thing in common....to be Regeneration Ministers who would help bring to birth new models of church. This was your primary call to us and you suggested that the three ministers could be lay or ordained as Minister of the Word or Deacon. It is a happy thing that we happen to have one of each! I suggest that a better or more complementary mix could not be found (if you take into consideration that we think we are the ideal age!).

Minister A's main task is to provide you with resources for a Regen focus, working with you to "lead the development of new ways and models of being church", including "experimentation" and "visioning". This includes a third of their time in worship leadership and considerable time given to resourcing our lay leaders. Other tasks include some level of pastoral care and administration.

Minister A reports that much of his time is spent building capacity to experiment. Being willing to risk ourselves in finding new ways of expressing our worship and spirituality leads us into experimentation, where we find refreshment and regeneration, awesomeness and wonder. Many have joined Minister A on this journey of discovery and exploration as they find new levels of faith and relationship. Our website for example, provides us with a growing resource, helping us to more easily access links, information and other resources. We are ready to explore more of these growing opportunities and look forward to developing other ways to use technology to serve us in sharing Church into the wider community. Working with various groups such as church councils has also allowed Minister A to suggest new insights and visioning. Minister A finds great delight in his role and in the people who are fellow pilgrims in this regeneration journey of discovery.

You asked **Minister B** to work with you in engaging with the community in new ways to express your faith (Fresh Expressions) in being church. This involves new ways to be at worship (and a local pastoral role and some admin). You told her you felt she was well equipped to lead and to listen deeply, that you discerned in her a deep call to mission, and affirmed her skill and ability to "stimulate and equip the congregations for mission". Her commitment and versatility in adjusting to new and challenging situations was identified as something which would encourage you in your calling to be a 'sent' and pilgrim people. Minister B is still excited and passionate about her call. She has spent 18 months deeply listening to your heart. Rest assured that the thing that first sparked her interest and called her from her home and hearth is still what gets her up every day. She hears your desperate call to help you be church in the midst of a hurting world, to love and cherish all people in our community, especially the marginalised. She is excited to see you discerning where the shoots of green, the evidence of new life, exist and to put your passion and energy into these places. She

is working with the places where church and community meets, places such as our op-shops, as well as our community agencies and neighbourhood houses. Rest assured she won't let you retreat into your comfort zones and rest on your laurels when your calling (and God's calling) to her is to Regenerate your Church.

You called **Minister C** with more Regeneration in mind and so she has also a visioning and empowering call with a high level of experimenting and visioning and developing. She also has a strong worship role and some admin. She has a slightly stronger focus on pastoral care than the other roles and in a sense co-ordinates the pastoral care across the Partnership. She is an enabler and a resource person for our congregational support and pastoral care teams. Minister C is throwing herself into this role, while taking on the pastoral care of the leaders themselves, caring for your carers. She is continuing to learn about local communities and listen for where she senses the Spirit of God moving. She finds ways to keep the vision of Regen in front of our congregations and has taken seriously your call to her to help you discover new ways to be expressions of God's love for your communities. Minister C is encouraged by the high level of willingness and commitment to caring that you show toward each other and your wider communities. She is heartened to see that many of you have a deep concern for people in difficult and oppressive circumstances, both locally and further afield, and that your concern moves you to prayer and action.

And so I am sure you have guessed that Peter is Minister A, Wendy is Minister B and Annette is Minister C. We don't have a hierarchy but instead all lead in different ways and at different times. I think Your JNCs did a marvellous job of finding you a team that would keep you to the task at hand while loving you and leading you and walking beside you. Speaking for myself I will say that every day is a privilege and I am honoured by your call on my life.

Blessings on us all as we walk forward in Partnership!

Rev Deac Wendy Elson

Colour vs Black and White

If you have a hard copy, you may have noticed a difference in the appearance of *Partnership in Print* this month. David Liebich and his company *Inflight Graphics* have been donating the printing and the time to produce this publication, and prior to the formation of the Partnership, the *Link* (for Mt Macedon, Riddells Creek, Romsey and Lancefield) since 2009. A total of 88 issues all in colour. The cost of printing 200 copies of *Partnership in Print* is amounting to \$2500 per year which David cannot maintain. Therefore this issue has been printed in grey scale while we discuss options.

Printing donated by



Printing donated by



Some suggestions to reduce costs.

- As many people as possible receive their issue by email and print their own.
- If you receive a copy by email do not take a hard copy.
- Congregations &/or Partnership contribute to the publication cost.
- Print totally in grey scale (printing cost about 10% of present)
- Print mostly in grey scale with occasional colour for special occasions/articles.

Do you have another solution? Please talk with your CoCo rep before next meeting which is on Saturday 1st April.

	Service time unless noted	Sunday 2nd April Lent 5	Sunday 9th April Palm Sunday	Monday in Holy Week 10th April	Tuesday in Holy Week 11th April
Northern Congregations	11am	<u>BARFOLD</u> Wendy Elson	<u>METCALFE</u> TBA		
Kyneton	9:30am	Annette Buckley	Doug Mclver		6pm Labyrinth Walk 7:30pm Peter Cannon
Lancefield	10:45am	TBA	Annette Buckley - HC		
Romsey	9am	TBA	Annette Buckley - HC		
	6pm				
Tylden	9am	Peter Cannon - HC	Bronwyn Hewitt		
Woodend			2pm - Asylum Seeker Rally @ Rotunda		
Mt Macedon	10:30am	Max Woolcock	Peter Cannon - HC		
Riddells Creek	9am Wednesdays				
Gisborne	9:30am	Janet Wood	Paul Gilbertson	7pm Annette Buckley	

Community Labyrinth Walk



A Community labyrinth walk will be held at Kyneton Catholic Church Labyrinth (opposite UCA) at **6pm** on Tuesday 11th April.

This will be followed by a Holy week service in the Kyneton UC then Bible Study and Worship Preparation.

vice in the Kyneton UC then Bible Study and Worship Preparation.

Gisborne Prayer group

Meets at the church on Tuesdays at 2pm & Fridays at 10am.

Prayer & Meditation

Every Wednesday at 9am at Riddells Creek. All welcome.

Meditation

Meditation group meets at the Woodend Anglican Church from 6-7pm each Wednesday. See Wendy for further details.

Worship

Wednesday in Holy Week 12th April	Maundy Thursday 13th April	Good Friday 14th April	Sunday 16th April Easter Day	Sunday 23rd April Easter 2	Sunday 30th April Easter 3
			<u>MIA MIA</u> Annette Buckley	<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> Peter Cannon - HC	Macedon Ranges Partnership 5th Sunday Joint Service - details TBA
	7pm Annette Buckley	Walk TBA Annette Buckley	Peter Cannon - HC	Andrea Strack	
			Wendy Elson (baptism)	TBA	
		9:30am Peter Cannon 10:30am Ecumenical Walk	Evening service	TBA	
			Romsey@6 Wendy Elson		
		9am Annette Buckley	*See note below	Shirley Bowen	
6pm Meditation 6:45pm Wendy Elson		11am Walk from Station Wendy Elson			
		9am Wendy Elson	Brian Charter	Janet Wood	
	7pm Peter Cannon				
	7:30pm Wendy Elson	9:30am Janet Wood	D'Arcy Wood - HC	Annette Buckley	

*Note - Tylden - Sunday 16th April at 9am – Easter Sunday Service followed by Hot Cross Buns & Easter Hunt at BBQ Shelter next to Tylden Hall.

Holy Week

There is at least one service each evening during Holy Week. See table above for locations and times.

Good Friday

There are services in Tylden, Mt Macedon, Romsey and Gisborne and walks in Romsey Woodend and Kyneton.

Learning Opportunity

Lenten Studies

The final of the Lenten Study series at Gisborne is at 11am on Friday 7th April.

Bible Study & Worship Preparation Dates

Tuesday 7:30pm session venue & date		Wednesday 10am session venue & date		Week preparing for	
<u>Tylden</u>	28th Mar	<u>Metcalfe</u>	29th Mar	Palm/Passion Sunday	9th Apr
<u>Gisborne</u>	4th Apr	<u>Mt Macedon</u>	5th Apr	Easter Day	16th Apr
<u>Kyneton</u> (note: follows Labyrinth walk at 6pm, meal and then Holy Week service at 7:30pm)	11th Apr	<u>Romsey</u>	12th Apr	2nd Sunday of Easter	23rd Apr
No study due to Partnership service preparation week	18th Apr	<u>Riddells Creek</u> - Bible Study only due to Partnership service preparation week	19th Apr	2nd Sunday of Easter Partnership Service	30th Apr
No study due to Anzac Day Public Holiday	25th Apr	<u>Metcalfe</u>	26th Apr	4th Sunday of Easter	7th May
<u>Gisborne</u>	2nd May	<u>Kyneton</u>	3rd May	5th Sunday of Easter	14th May
<u>Tylden</u>	9th May	<u>Mt Macedon</u>	10th May	6th Sunday of Easter	21st May
<u>Kyneton</u>	16th May	<u>Tylden</u>	17th May	7th Sunday of Easter	28th May

Meetings

CoCo

The next meeting of the Partnership Co-ordinating Council is at 9:30am at Lancefield Uniting Church on **Saturday 1st April**.

Romsey Church Council

Meets on **Wednesday 5th April** at 6pm at Sandra and David Strack's.

AGM

Romsey Congregation AGM will be held after Worship on **Sunday 23rd April**. All reports to be with Jeni Clampit by **Sunday 2nd April** for completion for reading prior to AGM.

Something New

Wednesday Evening Services

Gather around a meal at 7pm on
Wednesday 17th May &
Wednesday 14th June
at Tylden Uniting Church

These replace the Sunday service prior to each event (*ie 14th May & 11th June*)
Come & join us for a great evening.

News

Mt Macedon

At our Service on March 12th led by Annette we officially welcomed our Riddells Creek neighbours to the Mt Macedon Congregation (see photo). They have been worshipping with us for quite a while & it was lovely to make it official.



At that Service we were happy to have our dear Ping Sheppard back with us after she had spent time in China with her father who sadly died after a long illness. We were pleased to be able to express our love to her.

On a perfect Saturday in March at the Mount Macedon U.C. Annette conducted her very first Wedding Ceremony, for a lovely couple Natasha & Matthew.

St Andrews, Tylden

We held a successful breakfast to celebrate Neighbour Day, with 30 people in attendance. It was great to see all the young people of the area who swelled our numbers and the visitors who popped in to join us for something to eat. Everyone had an enjoyable time conversing about a number of topics of interest.

The Car Boot Sale & Fete was well supported by the community with 25 people taking a site on the day. This was a profitable day and we hope everyone enjoyed themselves in the lovely weather. Thank you to all the people who assist-

ed on the day especially the younger generation. It was great to catch up with so many people from the Partnership and surrounding towns.

We would like to welcome Lyn Ward who has been assisting in the Op Shop during Janet's absence. Op shop keeps hitting records in sales thanks to all the support of the local community.

We are still working on the review and have sent letters out to the wider community, to gauge their interest in taking part in various activities and gain feedback on ideas of other events in which we could participate as a fresh expressions church.

We wish Jan all the best for her continued recovery and hope she also has a chance to recharge her batteries while her body heals following surgery.

Special Event

Car Boot Sale



Gisborne Uniting Church

on the block next door to the church

Saturday, 22nd April

9am – 2pm

To book a site, contact

Noel Hemphill, 5428 2624 or 0438 205 969

Paul Gilbertson, 5428 2446 or 0405 876 198

The cost is \$15/site.

There will be a Sausage Sizzle and Devonshire Tea available.

Clubs and Groups

Romsey UCAF

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 29th March** at Willowmeade, Kilmore. Meet at church at 12:30pm to car pool. There will be no meeting in April.

Mt Macedon Thistle Club

Thistle Club meet at 2pm at the church on **Wednesday 29th March** – DVD Swap Day – Bring a favourite DVD, tell us about it and swap it for someone else's. (Put your name on it and you will get it back).

Item for Shoeboxes – soft pencil cases, pencils, sharpeners etc.

Devotions: Lois Coggin.

Our meeting on **Wednesday 26th April** will be an outing to Skydancers - Nursery, Gift shop, Cafe & Butterflies - in Harcourt. Meet at the church at 11am to carpool. We will lunch around noon then wander around.

Riddells Creek Craft Group

Meets **Tuesday 4th April**. Enquiries to Lynette Bucknall.

Men's Group

Men's Group will meet on **Tuesday, 4th April** at 10am at Mt Macedon UC. All men welcome.

Tylden UCAF

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 4th April** at 1:30pm at St Andrews Uniting Church, Tylden. All welcome.

Gisborne Friends

Meet at 6:30pm on **Friday 7th April** at the church.

Muffin'n More

The Muffin'n More will be held at the Gisborne Church on **Tuesday 11th April** from 10am until 12noon.

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Gisborne Craft Group

The Craft Group will follow after Muffin's at Gisborne on **Tuesday 11th April** at 12noon till 2pm. BYO lunch.

Chat'n Chew - Kyneton



Gather on **Friday 28th April** at Kaddie's, High St, Kyneton at 12noon. All welcome.

Chaplaincy Report

Gisborne Secondary College

What a start. Over 50 new students years 8-12, and 216 new year 7's, many who need assistance in one way or other. Also around 14 new staff so lots of names to get to know.

Uniforms & books have been in great demand as not only can't they afford them; the uniform shop was out of stock very early. Many a conversation re financial costs in sending a child to secondary college which often turned into their family situation.

I have had a very generous delivery of stationery from *Office Choice* here in Gisborne. Many thanks.

Year 7 parent night was last week with Rod speaking about chaplaincy and I have a name of a parent who will help out at different times.

The Quilters group invited me to receive a quilt they have made so we can raffle it. It is beautiful and we can sell tickets until end of term.

Some sad news with a parent being diagnosed with aggressive cancer and another family with a child in hospital undergoing tests.

I will be going out on excursion with year 8's on two separate days and off to VCAL camp first week of March.

Hoping for a great year.

Barb (Gisborne Secondary College Chaplain)
Partnership in Print April 2017

Advanced Notice

The Proteus Ensemble in Concert

Kyneton Uniting Church
54 Ebden St, Kyneton

Sunday 7th May

at 2pm sharp

Cost \$20, Conc \$15, Students \$5

Afternoon tea included

Enquires to Malcolm Cole

Ph 5427 1807



Come join our voice and instrumental musicians, some with unusual instruments, as we journey from the 11th century to the present day. We explore sacred and secular music, including new compositions by local composers.

Romsey Uniting Church
invites you to join us for
an afternoon of music from
Lehar's "The Merry Widow"

performed by the

Singularity Choir

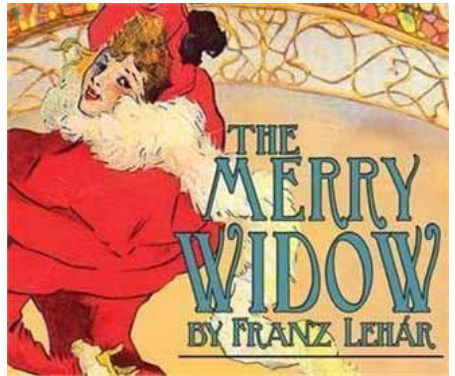
in the Romsey Uniting Church
25 Pohlman St, Romsey

at 1:30pm on

Sunday 28th May

Afternoon Tea & Trading Table
to follow

Cost \$20, Conc \$15



RSVP to reserve your seat
by 1st May, 2017 to

Hazel Allen 5429 5395

Jeni Clampit 5429 5480

Or mail to

PO Box 264,

Romsey, 3434



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

April 2017

2 Lent 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

3

4

10am - Mt Macedon
 Men's Group
 am - RC Craft Group
 1:30pm - Tylden UCAF
 2pm - Prayer at Gisborne
 7:30pm - Bible Study

9 Palm Sunday

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 Metcalfe
 2pm - Walk For Justice For Refugees

10 Monday in HW

7pm - Holy Week Service

11 Tuesday in HW

10am - Muffin'n More at
 Gisborne
 12noon - Gisborne Craft
 2pm - Prayer at Gisborne
 6pm - Labyrinth Walk
 7:30pm - Holy Week
 Service & Bible Study
 Kyneton

16 Easter Day

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

17

18

Start School Term 2
 2pm - Prayer at Gisborne

23 Easter 2

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

24

25 Anzac Day

No regular events

30 Easter 3

5th Sunday Combined Worship TBA

1 (May)

2 (May)

10am - Prayer at Gis-
 borne

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 (March) 1pm - Romsey UCAF 2pm - Mt Macedon Thistle Club	30 (March)	31 (March)	1 <i>Daylight saving ends tonight</i> 9:30am - CoCo at Lancefield
5 9am - Prayer at RCk 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Meditation at Woodend 6pm - Romsey Church Council	6	7 10am - Prayer at Gis- borne 11am - Lenten study at Gisborne 6:30pm - Gisborne Friends	8
12 Wed in HW 9am - Prayer at RCk 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Meditation at Woodend 6:45pm - Holy Week Service	13 Maundy Thu 7pm - Maundy Thursday Services at Kyneton & Riddells Creek 7:30pm - Maundy Thurs- day Service Gisborne	14 Good Friday 9am - Service at Tylden & Mt Macedon 9:30am - Service at Romsey & Gisborne 10:30am - Walk at Romsey 11am - Walk at Woodend TBA - Walk at Kyneton	15
19 9am - Prayer at RCk 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Meditation at Woodend	20	21 10am - Prayer at Gis- borne	22 9am-2pm - Gisborne Car Boot Sale
26 9am - Prayer at RCk 10am - Bible Study 11am - Mt Macedon Thistle Club 6pm - Meditation at Woodend	27	28 10am - Prayer at Gis- borne 12noon - Chat'n Chew at Kyneton	29
3 (May) 9am - Prayer at RCk 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Romsey C Council 6pm - Meditation	4 (May)	5 (May) 10am - Prayer at Gis- borne	6 (May)

Sacred Edge at Queenscliff

Coco Report

for Meeting held Saturday 4th March 2017 at Mt Macedon UC

Welcome On a lovely warm early autumn morning the CoCo crew gathered at Mt Macedon. Chairperson Colin welcomed us.

Devotions Anne Fyfield then led us in a thought about 'Making a Difference'.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: were accepted.

Ministry Team: Annette then gave us a report on her activities. She has spoken to all involved in the Riddells Creek Church and they are happy to be welcomed into the Mt.Macedon congregation at a service led by Annette on March 12th. Mt.Macedon is happy to welcome them as well. She has been encouraged by the wonderful work done at the Op.Shops in Woodend and Kyneton and the great fellowship and camaraderie experienced by the volunteers. She has been finding out how Pastoral Care is handled in the different congregations and seeing how this can be enhanced. Annette has attended a Godly Play training course. She will also run a Story Telling Workshop in Kyneton.

It was also mentioned that Wendy has been elected to Chair the Mission, Strategy and Education section of Presbytery.

Strategic Planning:

- Rose Broadstock sent some comments re the three teams established last Meeting. ie: Community Engagement Team, Pastoral Care Team, Resources Team. These teams will develop over the coming months.
- Colin had some Strategy documents from Presbytery – these will be distributed to each Congregation.

Reports:

Financial Report: Paul reported that our financial position is better than anticipated due to some income coming in from another source.

Property Committee: have had a meeting – need to establish a uniform approach across all the Churches. They will formulate a process for collating this. Maintenance of the Riddells Creek property mentioned. Annette consulted Presbytery re this. A plan re anticipated use needs to be formulated then submitted to Presbytery. Wendy has thoughts on the facility being used for mission outreach. Noel reported that the Romsey Manse maintenance overseen by Romsey/Lancefield has been finalised and will now be handed over to the CoCo Committee.

Congregation Reports: All seems to be going OK as we get well into 2017. Many activities over the whole area – lots of good happenings. Keep checking PIP for events over the whole Partnership and support events when possible. Riddells Creek Labyrinth will hopefully start in the next week or so. On-going problems with the work done on the Woodend Church – Synod are assisting with this. The Op Shop is a bright spot for them at the moment. Wendy suggested we find ways to under-pin them with our love and prayers.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

- **Banners** to publicise and signpost various Church events – will get these formatted.
- **Neighbour Day** – individual Churches holding events.
- **CoCo Meeting format** – held over to next month.
- Safe Church project. Presbytery pulling together progress reports for all Churches across the Presbytery. The President will be going before the Commission and it all needs to be in place. We are trying to hook up with another Training Day for those who missed the first one. Will need a data base

in place to up-load to Synod's data base.

- Neil told us of all the things that need to be implemented to achieve Safe Church and WWCC etc. Lot of discussion on who needs to be on the list to submit to Presbytery. CoCo need to do a submission for the Ministers as they are not covered in individual congregations.
- Website: Keep up-dating the Website – info needs to be up-to-date.
- January Services: A lot of discussion.

Some not keen to have Churches shut for an extended period. Overall most enjoyed meeting with others in the Partnership. It gave some of the Worship Teams a bit of a break to refresh themselves for the year ahead. Some comments on different worship styles. It is all a learning curve and will be refined as we go along.

Easter Services being formulated – different things at locations to be advised.

We meet again on Saturday 1st April at Lancefield. (Hope we are not April fools).

Faith has nothing to fear

Former ABC broadcaster, Dr Rachael Kohn, presented the 8th Peter Barcham lecture at Gisborne on Monday evening the 6th March.

Rachael was described by "the Sydney Morning Herald" in 2005, as a top intellectual. She certainly gave people at the well-attended lecture a lot to think about.

Rachael said faith in God gives us comfort and nothing can shake the relationship. Trusting in God is full of wonder and anticipation.

However faith is fading today in the modern world.

In the narrative of the Bible, human stories tell us of love, hope, family, community, and divine promise.

Religion is not about control, nor is faith motivated by fear.

God's word is fresh, relevant and potent. There have been views around that God is fearful and religion was seen as a way of regulating our behaviour, that God is powerful and requires our obedience.

But there is more to it than that.

Out-dated views of God say that He is a bully,

egotistical, judgmental and punishing. The Christian view is of love, the Jewish view of judgment.

She continued, saying - the battle against fear is the battle against sin.

In answering a question about fundamentalism and terrorism she said the death of love reigns in the Middle East.

Many fears concern, the environment, unemployment, loss of good government, loss of values and death.

People are losing the ability to relate directly with others on a one to one basis. Social media replaces real-life interaction. An unreal world takes over our common sense.

When answering the question of drug addiction and other harmful situations, Rachael referred to the 'epiphany moment' which can make all the difference. Some people learn the value of sacrifice.

The talk was delivered in a charming and melodious voice. Showing examples from life and her compassion, Rachael afforded us the chance to re-examine some of our beliefs.

Wendy Hebbard

WCC gravely concerned over Israel's travel ban - 9th Mar 2017

The World Council of Churches (WCC) today expressed grave concern about a new law passed on Monday by the Knesset which reportedly forbids granting entry visas to foreign nationals who call for economic, cultural or academic boycotts of either Israel or the Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. The 'Entry to Israel Act (Denial of Visa to Non-Residents Who Knowingly Call for a Boycott on Israel)' apparently makes no distinction between boycotting Israel proper and boycotting products of the settlements, which are widely considered illegal under international law.

"If reports of its content and intent are correct, this law is a shockingly regressive law," said WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit. "It would be a clear violation of freedom of expression, that is critical for those who want to visit Israel, for those who have to live under the occupation, and for those who want access to the Palestinian territories. It is also a significant violation of freedom of religion. It is precisely because of our Christian principles and teachings that we in the World Council of Churches find the purchase and consumption of goods produced in Israeli settlements in the occupied territories immoral, and it is for the same reason many churches and Christians around the world choose to divest from companies that profit from the illegal occupation."

Tveit observed that, if strictly applied according to its reported terms, "this new legislation would have the effect of barring representatives of many churches around the world from entering Israel, from accompanying sister churches and fellow Christians in the region, and from visiting the holy places for Christians. This potentially impacts the religious freedom of many Christians around the world, and harms Christians in Israel and Palestine. It could mean that I cannot, as general secretary of the WCC, visit our member churches in Israel and Palestine any more,

nor go to the holy sites."

The WCC – whose 348 member churches represent more than 560 million Christians globally – has encouraged its member churches to consider in their own contexts appropriate non-violent means of opposing the occupation and of working for a just peace in Israel and Palestine according to their own moral principles and teachings. The WCC has a specific and longstanding policy inviting member churches to boycott Israeli settlement products and to re-consider their investments from the same perspective, and many of them have made statements and taken actions accordingly.

"The WCC affirms and supports Israel's right to exist, categorically rejects violence as a means of resolving the conflict, and has described anti-Semitism as a sin against God" Tveit stressed. "But we, together with the United Nations and the vast majority of the international community, consider Israel's 50 year-long occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories as illegal. And on this basis the WCC has encouraged boycotting goods from Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, divestment from companies that benefit from the occupation, investment in Palestinian enterprises that can stimulate the local economy, but not a general boycott of or sanctions against Israel."

"The WCC seeks an equal measure of justice and dignity for all people, with a just peace for Israelis and Palestinians alike," Tveit continued, "but this legislation represents a form of isolationism that cannot be in Israel's best interests as a member of the international community, let alone of the people of the region. It is a critical shift in the way Israel relates to the rest of the world. I hope and pray it will not prove to be the government's actual policy and practice."

*from World Council of Churches website
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/>*

Palm Sunday Walk for Justice

Sunday 9th April

The 2017 Walk For Justice For Refugees will be on Sunday April 9 at 2pm at the State Library (music from 1.30pm). We hope that people from all faith groups, community organisations and unions will join the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees, bringing banners and other messages of support.

An estimated 15,000 people attended the 2016 Palm Sunday Walk for Justice. We want the 2017 gathering to be bigger still to demonstrate the growing concern across the community about the harsh and punitive treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. In April the PNG Supreme Court declared that detaining people in Manus Island was illegal, but people are still being held there, and Nauru is in crisis. Tragically, another young man has died as a result of inadequate medical treatment at the Manus

Island camp.

There is uncertainty about the proposed resettlement deal with the USA—how many will be left behind on Nauru and Manus Island? There are concerns that many will be pressured to return to unsafe places. The humane thing to do is to #BringThemHere and #LetThemStay.

There was outrage at the Turnbull government's recent attempt to impose a retrospective life-time ban on refugees who came by boat ever coming to Australia. Over 30,000 refugees are living on Bridging Visas in our community, with their futures in limbo. Many families are separated by our harsh system, and people despair of ever being reunited with their families. Now more than ever Australians of goodwill need to stand together for Justice for Refugees.

Endorsed by 115 organisations

organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network endorsed by:



call Marie 0409 252 673 or Chris 0403 013 183 for more info - www.refugeeadvocacynetwork.org

If you can't make it to the city
join a walk at Woodend - 2pm at the rotunda

Archie Roach, Jack Charles, & Nancy Bates will be at Sacrededge offering "Healing and Empowerment through the Arts". Conversation and Songs hosted by Namila Benson.

This is pretty special! And just one of the great performances at Sacrededge May 5-7 at Queenscliff.

Remember to get your Early Bird Weekend Tickets for just \$139 by March 31st

Book online at www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au or ring Jan 5258 285

Check out the Sacrededge Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SacredEdgeFestival/>



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

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
2nd April	Lent 5	P	Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
9th April	Palm Sunday	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11
	Passion Sunday	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14 to 27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54
10th April	Monday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 42:1-9	36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
11th April	Tuesday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 49:1-7	71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
12th April	Wednesday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
13th April	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
14th April	Good Friday	-	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
15th April	Holy Saturday	-	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.

Date	Day/Season	Col	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
16th April	Easter Day	W	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6	118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
23rd April	Easter 2	W	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
30th April	Easter 3	W	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
7th May	Easter 4	W	Acts 2:42-47	23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
14th May	Easter 5	W	Acts 7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14

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/#*

26 Mar - 1 Apr	Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia
2nd - 8th April	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia
9th - 15th April	Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania
16th - 22nd April	Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine
23rd - 29th April	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
30th April - 6th May	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

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 Joan Mills Peter Stone Doug McIver Andrea Strack</p>
<p><u>KYNETON</u></p>	<p><u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs</p>	<p><u>Congregation Secretary</u> Jenny Elston</p>
<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>
<p><u>ROMSEY</u></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><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>		
<p><u>MT MACEDON</u></p>	<p><u>Elders</u> Brian Charter, Anne Fyfield Neil Tweddle Barbara Talbot, Shirley Cross</p>	<p><u>Thistle Club</u> President - Judy Charter Secretary - Anne Fyfield <u>Organist</u> - George Fyfield</p>
<p><u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u></p>	<p><u>Contacts</u> David Liebich Marg Tarrant</p>	<p><u>Craft Group</u> Lynette Bucknall</p>
<p><u>GISBORNE</u></p>	<p><u>Prayer Ministry/F & C</u> - Glennis Speed <u>Pastoral Care/F & C</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> - Wendy Hebbard <u>Worship & Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson</p>	<p><u>UCAF</u> - Maree Clarke <u>Craft Group</u> - Linda Moorhouse <u>Friends Pizza Night</u> - Ron Hebbard</p>
<p><u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)</p>	<p><u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Secretary</u> - Bronwyn Hewitt <u>Minute Secretary</u> - Sina Smale <u>Treasurer</u> - Paul Gilbertson</p>	<p><u>Finance Committee</u> Chair - Paul Gilbertson, Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman & Bronwyn Hewitt</p> <p><u>Property Committee</u> Chair - Ian Kennedy Paul Gilbertson, Noel Shaw, & George Roberts</p>
	<p><u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> - Jay Brooks</p>	

Address Label

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SUTTON GRANGE - Church Access Rd MIA MIA - Matheson Rd BARFOLD - Heathcote-Kyreton Rd METCALFE - 3 Metcalfe-Kyreton Rd KYNETON - 54 Ebdon St (PO Box 892)	Roy Gibbs	Dot Smith	Finance Committee
LANCEFIELD - 9 High St		Ian Kennedy	Peter Fraser
ROMSEY - 25 Pohlman St (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit <u>Property</u> - David Strack	Roger Baker
TYLDEN - Trentham Rd (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden, 3444)	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole <u>Property</u> - Max Hinneberg	Dawn Hinneberg
WOODEND - 37 Forest St (PO Box 34, Woodend, 3442)	Ursina Smale	Ruth Hodgson	George Roberts
Mt MACEDON - 684 Mt Macedon Rd	Neil Tweddle	Fiona Armour	Lyn Ward
GISBORNE - 23 Brantome St	D'Arcy Wood	Colin Chapman <u>Property</u> - Neil Moonhouse, Rob Dunstan	Paul Gilbertson
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			Helen Aldridge, Pip Elston
			Ian Kennedy, Rita Vandervalk
			Noel Shaw, Jay Brooks Jeni Clampit
			Bronwyn Hewitt, Janet Cole Dawn Hinneberg
			Sina Smale, George Roberts
			Anne Fyfield, Lyn Ward Neil Tweddle
			Colin Chapman, D'Arcy Wood Paul Gilbertson
			PIP REP
			Ian Kennedy
			Jay Brooks
			Jenny Connor
			Alison Killoh
			Fiona Armour
			Michael Woolner