



Partnership in Print

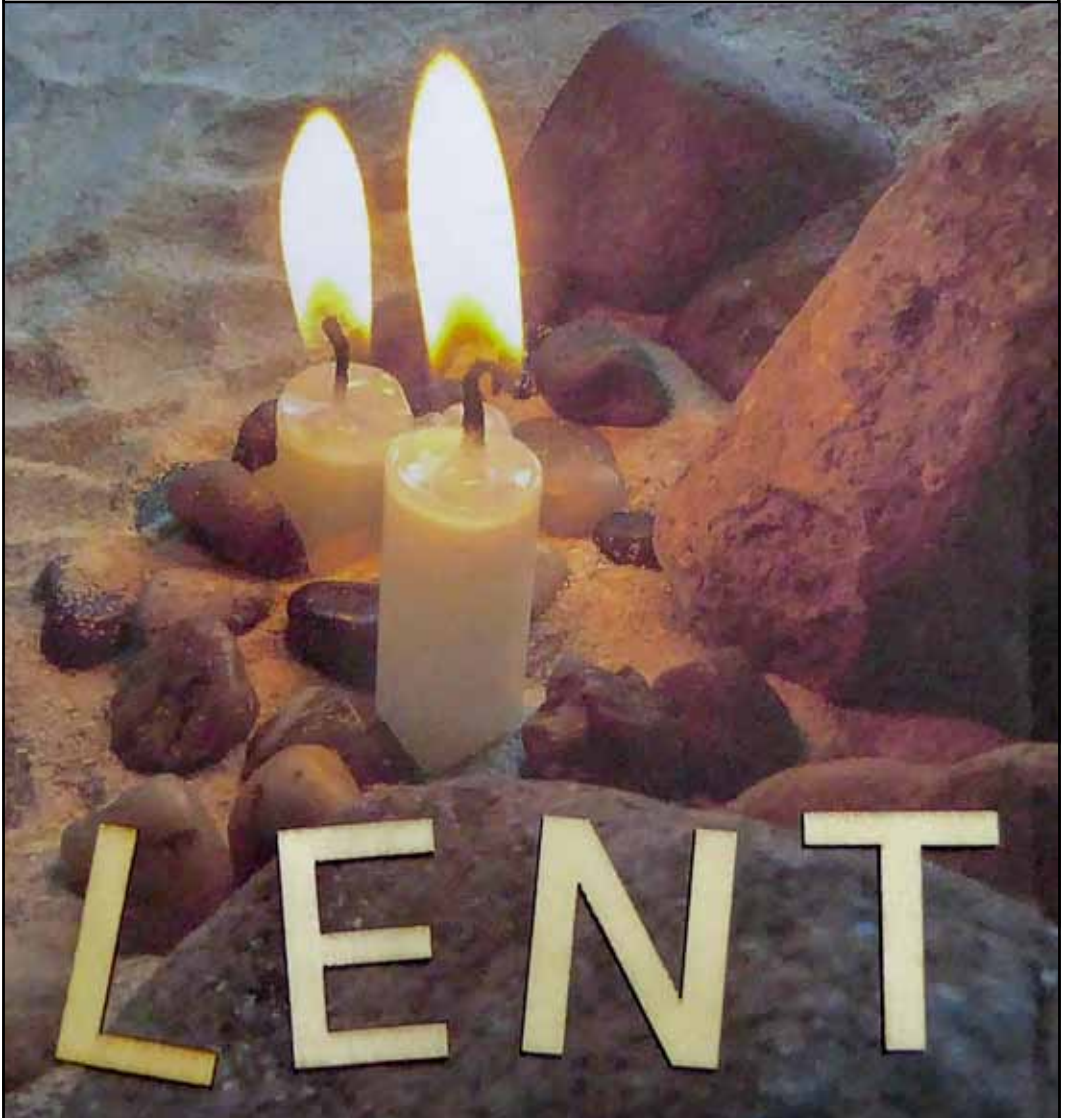


Uniting Church in Australia - Macedon Ranges Partnership

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

Issue No 30 - March 2018

Season - Lent 3 - Holy Saturday





The dust that shapes the journey,
the cross that guides it,
the colour that surrounds it,
the light that fades through it,
the word that foretells it,
the wilderness that invites it.

This is Lent,
and into its wilderness
God calls us.

Come,
brothers and sisters,
Christ is heading for Jerusalem.*

With these words, we prepared. We poured sand onto a mat on the floor, placed a holding cross on it, ran a purple cloth river through it, brought a storyteller to it, and placed a small pile of rough stones on it to lay out the background for our story for the first Sunday in Lent. A group of us, from toddlers to wise elders, sat in a circle and experienced the stories of Jesus' baptism, temptation and beginnings of ministry from Mark's gospel. There was water, and silence, and stillness. There were candles next to the stones, later, marking our prayers for those who are in a dark and rocky place, who need God's love and our care. Even later there was bread and juice to share, and words of sacredness and sacrament.

To some, it might not have looked much like worship, what with the toddler who blew endless raspberries at the candles, wanting to blow them out. That's what you do with candles, isn't it, if you're a toddler? Or the children who buried the wooden people in the sand, and placed the holding cross on top of the pile to mark the grave might not have looked like they were learning anything about God. Or the breaking of bread and dunking in the chalice that went on well after the liturgy finished, and the cheeks stuffed full of juice-soaked bread that ensued. There were giggles and mess – surely that's a bit irreverent?

Maybe, but to others, it might have felt like holy ground as we listened and wondered together, young and slightly older, and responded to and with love and grace. It might even have felt like holy ground when we shared the making and eating of pancakes before the 'real' worship started on the mat, a time to work together with hospitality and generosity, and to share the fruits of our work with each other.

The place where all this happened has had its own time of wilderness. There have been rocky

patches and darkness, and perhaps a sense of despair. The wilderness can be challenging and frightening, especially when there's no end in sight. This place, though, is becoming a site of new green shoots of hope. Sunday morning worship no longer happens there every week, but this monthly Sunday afternoon service is providing an opportunity for worship that reaches people differently. Only a few days earlier, an Ash Wednesday service was held. A labyrinth, lovingly created, sits outside. This place is now the site of a welcoming space for people to come each week to share conversation and hospitality. The books so generously donated by people from the community are shared, and some were sold in stall that formed part of the whole town garage sale on the Saturday before the Lenten service. Community groups now use this place for their meetings and activities. There are plans for the future, and much to look forward to.

The story we told with dust, cross, word, fading light and purple cloth was about Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness following his baptism. It changed him and challenged him, so that when he left his feet were set on a new path of proclaiming that the kingdom of God had drawn near. The place where we worshipped has its own story of being changed and challenged to tell about the closeness of the kingdom in a new way. As we journey through Lent, how will we allow ourselves to be changed and challenged? How might we see the nearness of the kingdom and tell its stories in new ways?

Annette Buckley

**written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website.
<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>*

Fund Raising

Car Boot Sale Tylden UC

Monday 12th March

From 10am

At the Tylden Church

There will be the usual cake
and white elephant stalls,
barbecue and Devonshire teas
All Welcome

To book a site for \$10, please ring
Glenda Fleming on 5424 8218



Car Boot Sale Gisborne UC

Saturday 17th March

9am - 2pm

On the block next to the Gisborne Church
If anyone has any bric-a-brac they wish to
sell or would like to buy a treasure,
please come along!

To book a site for \$15, please ring
Noel (54328 2624) or Paul (5428 2446)



Worship Leaders

	Service time	Sunday 4th March	Sunday 11th March	Sunday 18th March	Sunday 25th March
Northern Congregations	10am	<u>BARFOLD</u> Peter Cannon - HC	<u>METCALFE</u> TBA	<u>MIA MIA</u> TBA	<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> TBA
Kyneton	9:30am	Doug McIver	Andrea Strack	Annette Buckley - HC	Peter Cannon
RM Begg	3:30pm				Monday 26th Feb & March
Lancefield	10:45am	TBA	Wendy Elson - HC	TBA	Adrian Pegler
Romsey	9am	TBA	Wendy Elson - HC	Congregation members	Adrian Pegler
Tylden	9am	Wendy Elson - HC	Alison Killoh	Peter Cannon	Janet Cole
Woodend	11am	Mondays (5th, 12th, 19th & 26th)			
Mt Macedon	10:30am	D'Arcy Wood	Peter Cannon - HC	Adele Mapperson	David Liebich
Riddells Creek	9am	Wednesdays (Devotions)			
	4pm			Intergenerational Wendy Elson	
Gisborne	9:30am	Judy Archer	Paul Gilbertson	D'Arcy Wood	Annette Buckley - HC

Holy Week Events -

Some of these to be confirmed. See April PiP distributed on Palm Sunday or local sources.

Monday 26th to Wednesday 28th March - Services 7pm at Mt Macedon each evening.

Maundy Thursday 29th March Services - 7pm at Mt Macedon - Annette Buckley
7:30pm at Gisborne - Peter Cannon
7pm at Metcalfe - Wendy Elson

Good Friday 30th March Services - 9am at Mt Macedon - Meg Evans
9:30am at Gisborne - Janet Wood
9:30am at Lancefield - Annette Buckley (followed by walk TBC)
TBA at Tylden - Peter Cannon

Gathering - 9:30am at Kyneton - Wendy Elson

Hot X Buns in the park - Noon at Woodend

Prayer & Worship

Weekly Prayer & Meditation

There are a number of weekday opportunities to be involved in worship, prayer or meditation within the Partnership. You are welcome to attend any of these occasionally or regularly.

- Prayer for Peace every Monday morning at 11am at Woodend. Followed by lunch. The community are warmly welcomed to this but we really encourage Partnership members to be involved.
- The Lancefield Church is open for private Prayer and Meditation every Wednesday 11am - 3pm.
- An Ecumenical Meditation Group meets by arrangement with participants not a set time. Contact Wendy for details.
- Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek is available at any time if you wish to walk on your own.
- Prayer Meetings are held at Gisborne Church at 2pm on Tuesdays and 10am on Fridays. (Note - No meeting on Friday 2nd March due World Day of Prayer)

Call To Prayer



Call To Prayer re our Mission and Presence in Woodend every Wednesday morning at 9am at Woodend church until Easter Day. Please come

and pray with us so that together our Partnership can discern the call of God for us at Woodend and seek God in the use of our buildings.

Ministry Team Meetings

The Ministry Team meetings until Easter will be held at Woodend following the above mentioned prayer there. Meditative Worship will be at 9:30am followed by our usual team meeting until lunchtime.

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World Day of Prayer

Friday 2nd March

Country - Suriname

Gisborne - 10am at House of the Rock,
247 Station Rd, New Gisborne

Romsey/Lancefield -

11am at Christ Church (Anglican)
Chauncy St, Lancefield. (please bring food to share for lunch)

Macedon Ranges Prayer Network

This a group for all Christians in the Macedon Ranges area to come together to pray for God to move in our churches and in our area. It meets once a month, most of the time on the last Tuesday of the month. The location varies. We have met in Kyneton, Romsey, Gisborne and at the Cross on Mount Macedon.

The February meeting is Tuesday 27 February at the House of the Rock church between 10am and 12 noon. People are welcome to come and join us for all or part of that time. The convenor is Carola on 0449 263 140.

Romsey Worship Team

The Romsey Congregation has decided to reactivate the Worship Team. A meeting will be held 10am on Monday 5th March at the church to discuss how the team might operate. All congregation members welcome to be involved. If you are unable to make the meeting let us know how you can contribute so you can be included in the planning.

Communications to Sandra Strack or Jay Brooks

FYI

Rev Judy Rigby will be inducted into the Airport West congregation on Sunday 18th March at 2pm. Airport West UCA will also celebrate the opening of their new building at the same event. Address: Corner Glenys Avenue and Roberts Road, Airport West. All welcome.

Meetings

Romsey Church Council

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 7th March** at 6pm at the home of Sandra and David Strack.

Woodend Tylden Cluster

The Woodend Tylden Cluster Council will meet 7:30pm on **Wednesday 21st March** at Woodend.

CoCo

There will be no CoCo meeting in March as we are trialling bi-monthly meetings for 2018. The next CoCo meeting will be on **Saturday 7th April** at 9:30am at Lancefield.

AGM's

Gisborne Congregation

The Annual General Meeting of the Gisborne Congregation will be held after worship on **Sunday 11th March**.

As well as receiving annual reports, the meeting will elect members for Church Council.

After several years in the chair, D'Arcy Wood will retire from the Council.

The meeting will also discuss whether there is an environmental project in this region that we can support.

Romsey Congregation

The Annual General Meeting of the Romsey Congregation will be held after worship on **Sunday 15th April**.

Reports need to be with Jeni Clampit by the end of March so the combined report can be collated.

Clubs and Groups

Cuppa @ Cookies

Each Monday – 2pm

Coffee get together at

Cookies Cafe in Main St, Romsey.



White Goose Book Exchange



The White Goose Book Exchange is open each **Wednesday** 9:30am - 1:30pm at Riddells Creek. Come for a book, to read the papers, a cuppa or just for a chat with our friendly volunteers.

Lancefield Music

Lancefield Music has reverted to being fortnightly Tuesdays 2pm til 4pm. Coming dates are:-

27th February, 13th & 27th March

Mt Macedon Thistle Club

Our first meeting for 2018 will be on **Wednesday 28th February** at 2pm at the Church for our Commitment Service & Catch-Up.

Items for Shoeboxes - Soap.

On **Wednesday 28th March** we are travelling to the Immigration Museum. Meet at Gisborne Station to catch the 10:35am train to Melbourne. Lunch is at South Bank. Then visit the Museum and go on a guided tour.

Friends Group

Gisborne Friends Group meet on **Friday 2nd March** at 6pm at the home of D'Arcy and Janet Wood, 28 Bluegum Cct, Riddells Creek. All welcome.

Tylden UCAF

Our next meeting will be at the church at 10am on **Tuesday 6th March**

Men's Group

Mount Macedon Men's Group meets at 10am on **Tuesday 6th March** at the Church. All men welcome.

Muffin'n More

Muffin'n More at Gisborne from 10am on **Tuesday 13th March**.

Conversation Group

Conversation Group meets at the Hallett's on **Wednesday 21st March**.

Romsey UCAF

Our March meeting is on **Wednesday 14th**. We will gather at the Romsey church as normal at 1:30pm before travelling to Riddells Creek and visit the White Goose to experience and hear what they are all about.

Film Club

Film Club met on Thursday 22nd February at Romsey and watched 'Paper Planes'. Next gathering will be back at Riddells Creek at 7:30pm on **Thursday 22nd March**. Film is yet to be decided.

Kyneton Chat'n'Chew

Meet at Kaddy's Cafe, 8 High St, Kyneton on **Friday 23rd March** at 12 noon. All are welcome, just turn up. Note change of date due Good Friday
Any questions to Jenny Elston.



Justice

Peace Rally

A Peace Rally will be held Palm Sunday 25th March.see Wendy for details.

Zero Discrimination Day

Zero Discrimination Day an annual worldwide event that promotes diversity and recognizes that everyone counts will be marked at Kyneton on **Thursday 1st March**.see Wendy for details.

Close the Gap

Close the Gap Day is on 15th March. Our event will be the day before this on **Wednesday 14th March** at 11am. We will be holding a public morning tea and will be joined by the Woodend Anglicans and others. Please come in solidarity and concern regarding the inequalities shown to our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

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Learning Opportunities

Lenten Bible Studies

Lenten Bible Studies at Mt Macedon at 11am on **Fridays 9th 16th and 23rd March**. (Note no session on 2nd March due World Day of Prayer) Study Book by Adam Hamilton on John's Gospel focus on Easter events.

Lay Preachers' Conference

Friday 16th March - from 7pm

Opening Worship followed by first session

Saturday 17th March

9am - 2:30pm Worship and 3 sessions

3 - 4pm Annual General Meeting

Venue - Centre for Theology and Ministry, College Crescent, Parkville (opposite Melbourne Cemetery gates)

Cost - No cost for Friday evening, Saturday is \$30 to be paid in cash on the day. Includes lunch and refreshments.

Registration before Thursday 9 March - email Secretary with name, address, phone, email, and any dietary requirements on <lpasecretary@victas.uca.org.au>. No email? phone Jay Brooks (listed in PiP directory) and she will pass your details on.

Last year it was great having the group of Lay Preacher candidates share their first education intensive of the year with our conference. So, we're doing it again this year! We're putting together a program of first-rate presenters that will engage your thinking, grow your practical skills as worship leaders as well as develop understanding of some of the issues currently being met by the Uniting Church. Of course, plenty of time for socialising over delicious snacks and lunch.

The Committee of Management encourages all lay people interested in worship leadership to come along as we share in learning and fellowship together.

Around the Partnership in February

Whole Town Garage Sale at the White Goose

On a beautifully sunny morning on 17th February the White Goose was in all her finery.

With 7 tables of books ranging from coffee table books, fiction, non-fiction and children's books there was plenty for all (except those who didn't want books!)

We were delighted that approximately 100 people from Riddell and further afield discovered and were impressed with our Book Exchange and Drop In Place set-up as well as the Labyrinth. It will be good to see them back again!

Many thanks to the dozen or so people who so enthusiastically assisted in the setting up, meeting our visitors and clearing up afterwards.

Know that your hard work is greatly appreciated. PS We did sell many books and the money raised is a bonus. Leftover books will go to the Gisborne Car Boot Sale, and one of the Sunbury School's Fair.

Meg Evans

Baptism at Metcalfe

The Tylden congregation enjoyed a wonderful day with the Northern Congregations on Sunday 18th February at Metcalfe joining the families of Jacinta and Sam Hewitt in celebrating the baptisms of Jamie and Abby.

Janet Cole

Pancake Tea

At Romsey, on Shrove Tuesday, eighteen people and 2 dogs enjoyed a pleasant evening of shared pancakes and conversation. The weather was perfect so we cooked and sat out in the church gazebo.

Jay Brooks



Mt Macedon Farewell

Mount Macedon congregation farewelled Judy and Brian Charter on Sunday 4th February with a BBQ lunch following the service. Brian Charter preached and Judy read the scriptures here for the last time. A good crowd of members wished Judy and Brian well.

They have been long-standing, 35 year, members at Mt.Macedon.

After having been burnt-out in the Ash Wednesday fires, they were re-building their home and also involved with re-building the Church.

Brian has been an Elder at Mt.Macedon for many years, a Lay Preacher, also served as Congregational Chairperson. Judy also served as an Elder, President of Thistle Club, Choir Leader, Wedding Convenor, and her skill in arranging flowers enhanced the church at many weddings over the years.

Gifts from the congregation and their friends were presented. Judy and Brian have now moved to their new home in Geelong. They will be missed hugely and Wesley at Geelong will be fortunate to have them in their Congregation.

Contributed by Neil Tweddle & Anne Fyfield

Anniversary Wishes

Lorraine and Neil Tweddle thank all their friends for the good wishes on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 16th February 2018.



Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) familiarisation session

Do you know how to use a defibrillator?

Do you know where accessible defibrillators are located in your community?

There will be 2 familiarisation sessions at
Romsey Ambulance Station,
Main St, Romsey

on **Wednesday 14th March.**

10am or 7pm

All Welcome (including from other towns)

**Bring family members and friends
with you.**

It could be your life they save.

The Romsey congregation has just commissioned their defibrillator which is available to anyone using the church property.

Some things to think about

A bold unbeliever was lecturing a group on the folly of religious faith in general and the Christian faith in particular. At the close of the presentation the speaker invited people to propound and questions they might have. In the audience was the town drunkard, who had been converted to Christ. In response to the invitation the converted alcoholic came up front, took out an orange, peeled it and ate it without comment.

The speaker asked if he had a question for him. After downing the last segment of orange the convert turned to the infidel and asked, "Was the orange I just ate sweet or sour?" Angrily, the speaker replied, "You idiot, how can I know whether it was sweet or sour when I never tasted it?" To this the converted drunkard retorted. "And how can you know anything about Christ if you have not tried Him?"

From Editor's Clip Sheets

One man came out of his house on his way to church on Sunday morning, just as his neighbour came out with his golf clubs. The golfer said, 'Henry come out and play golf with me today.' Henry with an expression of self-righteous horror on his face replied, 'This is the Lord's Day and I go to church. Certainly I wouldn't play golf.'
After a moment's embarrassed silence the golfer quietly said, 'You know, Henry, I have often wondered about your church, and I admire your faithfulness. You know also, however, that this is the seventh time I have invited you to play golf with me - and you have never invited me to go to church with you.'

From Editor's Clip Sheets

March 2018

4 Lent 3

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton
 10am - Worship at Barfold (*cuppa at 9:40am*)
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)

5

10am - Romsey Worship
 Team Meeting
 11am - Prayers for Peace
 at Woodend
 2pm - 'Cuppa at Cookies'
 Romsey

6

10am - Tylden UCAF
 10am - Mt Macedon
 Men's Group
 2pm - Prayer at Gisborne
 2pm - Lancefield Music

11 Lent 4

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton
 10am - Worship at Metcalfe (*cuppa at 9:40am*)
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:30am - Gisborne AGM
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)

12 Labour Day Holiday

10am - Car Boot Sale at
 Tylden

13

10am - Muffin'n More at
 Gisborne
 2pm - Prayer at Gisborne

18 Lent 5

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton
 10am - Worship at Mia Mia (*cuppa at 9:40am*)
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)

Copy for PIP due this evening

19

11am - Prayers for Peace
 at Woodend
 2pm - 'Cuppa at Cookies'
 Romsey

20

2pm - Prayer at Gisborne

25 Palm Sunday

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton
 10am - Worship at Sutton Grange (*cuppa at 9:40am*)
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)
 ?? - Peace Rally

26

11am - Prayers for Peace
 at Woodend
 2pm - 'Cuppa at Cookies'
 Romsey
 3:30pm - Worship at RM
 Begg
 7pm - Holy Week Service
 at Mt Macedon

27

2pm - Prayer at Gisborne
 2pm - Lancefield Music
 7pm - Holy Week Service
 at Mt Macedon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ?? - Zero Discrimination Day	2 World Day of Prayer 10am - WDP Gisborne 11am - WDP Lancefield 6pm - Gisborne Friends	3
7 9am - Prayer at Woodend 9:30am - Worship & MTM at Woodend 9:30-1:30pm - The White Goose 11-3 - Lancefield Church Open 6pm - Romsey Church Council	8	9 10am - Prayer at Gisborne 11am - Lenten Bible Study at Mt Macedon	10
14 9am - Prayer at Woodend 9:30am - Worship & MTM at Woodend 9:30-1:30pm - The White Goose 11-3 - Lancefield Church Open 11am - Close the Gap at Woodend 1:30pm - Romsey UCAF	15	16 10am - Prayer at Gisborne 11am - Lenten Bible Study at Mt Macedon 7pm - Lay Preachers' Conference	17 9am-2pm - Car Boot Sale at Gisborne 9am-4pm - Lay Preachers' Conference
21 9am - Prayer at Woodend 9:30am - Worship & MTM at Woodend 9:30-1:30pm - The White Goose 11-3 - Lancefield Church Open 7:30pm - Woodend Tylden Cluster Council at Woodend pm - Conversation Group	22 7pm - Film Club at Riddells Creek	23 10am - Prayer at Gisborne 11am - Lenten Bible Study at Mt Macedon 12noon - Chat'n Chew at Kyneton	24
28 9am - Prayer at Woodend 9:30am - Worship & MTM at Woodend 9:30-1:30pm - The White Goose 11-3 - Lancefield Church Open 10:35am - Mt Macedon Thistle club 7pm - Holy Week Service at Mt Macedon	29 Maundy Thursday 7pm - Services at Mt Macedon & Metcalfe 7:30pm - Service at Gisborne <i>Last Day School Term 1</i>	30 Good Friday See listing for Services and other events	31

Coco Report for AGM and Ordinary Meeting held on Saturday February 3rd 2018 at Mt Macedon UC

Chairperson Colin welcomed us to the new Coco year.

Lyn Ward then led us with a thought that likened the Partnership to a sporting contest at Half Time. Those involved, both as spectators and participants, stop to analyse what has happened to date and also look ahead to what needs to occur in the next half. The need for improvement and development in the years ahead. Lyn tied in this thought with the Lectionary reading of Isaiah 40: 21 -31. She reflected on being raised up and inspired "mounted up with the wings of eagles". The concluding prayer sought strength to launch into the new year.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

- Will endeavour to get Uniting Age Care to come to a Coco Meeting to tell us about their work in the community.

AGM

Wendy took the Chair.

Colin Chapman was elected Chairperson

Fiona Armour " " Secretary

Paul Gilbertson " " Treasurer

Lyn Ward " " Deputy Treasurer

Later in the meeting Neil Tweddle accepted the role of Deputy Chairperson.

Thanks to all these people for their willing acceptance of these positions.

Reports

The Ministry Team Report was prepared by Peter Cannon for this meeting.

Peter highlighted some of the issues facing the congregations - please read his report which is available at all the Partnership Churches. He is emphasising the half way mark of the Partnership and preparation for the way ahead when our funding ceases.

He also listed the many activities he has been involved in over the past couple of months.

Please also read *Partnership In Print* for the many activities going on throughout the Partnership.

Macedon Ranges Partnership Review Report. - Discussion on what lies ahead when Ministry Team is no longer in placement. Opportunity to develop Woodend and Riddell's Creek in new ways. Ian Kennedy shared different way of conducting Sunday Worship at Lancefield. Belief in the Holy Spirit being at work in the world is essential to our future both as a Partnership and in our individual congregations.

Woodend UC - Much discussion on future plans for the Woodend UC - Many uses in planning phase – Use as an Art Space, negotiations with the Islamic Council. Currently used for Yoga. Notice Board to advertise what is happening. Op Shop storage needs sorting out. Volunteers to move bags sought and agreed to meet on the following Monday to achieve this. Task Force needed to oversee cleaning and leasing etc.

Property - Ian Kennedy reported on maintenance of the Woodend buildings. A Structural Engineer will inspect and report on what is needed in the way for repairs etc. A plumber will be on site soon to address drainage problems. When these reports are available the planning for rectification can proceed. Possibly a group of Woodend people and Coco to move things forward.

The Woodend Opportunity Shop property has been sold – there may or may not be an option to take up another lease. Representatives for Op Shop oversight worked out.

Riddell's Creek UC Report - BOMAR grant
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for upgrade of toilets, ramp, kitchenette etc to be managed by David Liebich.

White Goose Book Exchange having a positive outcome – local people coming in. The White Goose is participating in an “All of Town Garage Sale”.

The Church Camp in July mentioned – publicity to follow very soon.

Financial Report - The Treasurer submitted the financial report – this was accepted.

Pastoral Care – asking for contacts for next of kin. Sometimes needed in cases of emergency.

Safe Church Training just about completed. Great work by Annette to get this complied with by all Op.Shop volunteers.

Congregational Reports from all the Partnership Churches were positive with Groups etc starting up for the year. Kyneton are embarking on the task of purchasing a new Manse. Once again check *Partnership In Print* for the many activities happening in the Churches.

Annette is promoting Spiritual Activities for Lent – information distributed.

Colin thanked Mt Macedon for hosting the meeting. Coco will meet again on April 7th at Lancefield.

The Challenge of Secularism for Christianity

Secularism can be defined as:

- the principle of separation of the state from religious institutions, or the view that public education and other matters of civil policy should be conducted without the introduction of a religious element, or
- the belief that religion should not be involved with the ordinary social and political activities of a country, or
- the ideology which either eliminates God altogether or pushes God to the margins.

This year's Peter Barcham lecturer was Barney Zwartz – a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity – who addressed the issue of secularism in a lecture delivered on Monday 19th February at the Gisborne Uniting Church.

He firstly discussed the challenges posed to Christianity by the increasingly uneasy mix of politics and religion in Australian society, by the anti-religious agenda evident in the activities of some groups and organisations in Australia, and by the prominence afforded to outspoken secularists. He gave several examples of where and how these challenges have occurred, particularly in recent times.

His conclusions were that churches in Australia are in a vulnerable position at the present time, and that there were ways in which something could be done about it. He advocated three responses:

- That faith must not retreat: the church must not give up the “public square”
- That there should be a positive case put forward for religion
- That the church should seek to correct misinformation which is evident in what he called the “history wars”.

A number of ways of promoting religion were discussed by Barney Zwartz, with one being the exploration of the concept that Jesus formed a community around him, a community that, at its heart, remembers and rehearses his deeds and words (*Michael F. Bird (2013) Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*).

It was the intention of those who instigated the Peter Barcham Memorial lectures on contemporary Christianity that they probe, stimulate, inform and inspire.

Barney Zwartz certainly achieved these objectives!

Colin Chapman



From Editor's
Clip Sheets

First entrepreneur: "Who was the greatest businessman of all time?"
Second entrepreneur: "Noah - he was the only man to float a limited company when the rest of the world was in liquidation."

A Californian undertaker began offering clients a choice of two coffin linings. One was made of silk and the other of a synthetic material - but he doesn't recommend the latter because it is likely to cause skin irritation.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have the longer you live.

The sermon topic was "Gossip" immediately followed by the hymn, "I love to tell the story."

My wife says I never listen to her. At least I think that's what she says.

After a formal dinner a bishop was approached by one of the waitresses, who shyly asked him to autograph a menu. He did so and prefaced the signature with the customary small cross. After he handed back the menu, the waitress whispered, "And thanks for the wee kiss, my Lord"

Mistakes can make life interesting

Editors are usually wary of reprinting other people's mistakes. After all we all make them and they might be reporting ours next time. Some however are too good to miss.

- The pastor hastily scribbled the sermon title "Loaves by the Sea." The secretary gave it a more romantic flair. It ended up as Lovers by the Sea"
- The bulletin board announced that because of the secretary's vacation, the church office schedule would be "Somewhat erotic this week and next."
- The flyers announced the five day New Life Mission with a "nighty worship service at 7:30pm."

Bits of wisdom from the wise and not so wise

- Until I was thirteen I thought my name was shut up. - *Joe Namath*
- Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life. - *Herbert Henry Asquith*
- What would men be without women? Scarce, sire..... mighty scarce. - *Mark Twain*
- My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying - *Ed Furgol*
- Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty... but everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out. - *Phyllis Diller*
- Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you get older it will avoid you. - *Winston Churchill*
- By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. - *Billy Crystal*
- I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. - *Bob Hope*

Refugees

they have no need of our help
so do not tell me
these haggard faces could belong to you or me
should life have dealt a different hand
we need to see them as they really are
chancers and scroungers
layabouts and loungers
with bombs up their sleeves
cut-throats and thieves
they are not
welcome here
we should make them
go back to where they came from
they cannot
share our food
share our homes
share our countries
instead let us
build a wall to keep them out
it is not okay to say
these people are just like us
a place should only belong to those who are born there
do not be so stupid to think that
the world can be looked at another way

- Brian Bilston

(now read from bottom to top - phrase by phrase)

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 B

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
Sun 4 March	Lent 3	P	Exodus 20:1-17	19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Sun 11 Mar	Lent 4	W	Numbers 21:4-9	107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Sun 18 Mar	Lent 5	P	Jeremiah 31:31-34	51:1-12 or 119:9-16	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Sun 25 Mar	Annunciation of the Lord	P	Isaiah 7:10-14	45 or 40:5- 10	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Sun 25 Mar	Palm Sunday	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Sun 25 Mar	Passion Sunday	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)
Mon 26 Mar	Monday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 42:1-9	36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Tue 27 Mar	Tuesday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 49:1-7	71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wed 28 Mar	Wednesday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Thu 29 Mar	Maundy Thursday	P	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Fri 30 Mar	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
Sat 31 Mar	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

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/#>

25 Feb - 3 March	Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands
4-10 March	Ireland; United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales
11-17 March	See website - information not released at time of printing
18-24 March	See website - information not released at time of printing
25 - 31 March	See website - information not released at time of printing

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>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> Fiona Armour, Anne Fyfield Lyn Ward David Liebich, Neil Tweddle</p>	<p><u>Thistle Club</u> President - Shirley Cross Secretary - Anne Fyfield <u>Organist</u> - George Fyfield</p>
<p><u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u></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>
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