

NEWSBEAT



PRESBYTERY OF
PORT PHILLIP EAST

Tupe's ordination was well worth the wait...

WELL-LOVED candidate for ministry Mr Tupe Ioelu, was ordained as Minister of the Word on July 21 in front of a packed congregation at Glen Waverley Uniting Church, writes Rev John Mann.

After having waited since the end of last year, Tupe received a call to the Horsham Parish and was delighted to be ordained recently.

The appreciative congregation was led in the *Service for the Ordination of a Minister of the Word* by the Presbytery Chair, Rev Ian Ferguson through creative and thought-provoking worship.

The children in the congregation were given a special role in reminding everyone of their baptism by the sprinkling of water from palm fronds over the congregation. While choirs from St. Columba's, Noble Park, the Samoan Congregation at Keysborough, and the Samoan congregation at Sunshine sang wonderfully



appropriate songs for the occasion with a lot of energy and heart-felt conviction. Rev Prof Sean Winter - pictured above with Rev Ferguson, Tupe and his family - from the Centre of Theology and Ministry preached a very entertaining

sermon based on [Matthew 28:16-20 The Great Commission](#), and on the theme of 'time'. This brought a lot of smiles, considering he was caught up in traffic and almost didn't make it in time.

In the narration of steps, we were reminded of Tupe's journey to ordination; noting his first experiences of



preaching, his Period Of Discernment, the endorsing of his application for Candidature by the Presbytery and a Synod Selection Conference, his years of formal training, and the Presbytery's oversighting Tupe's development in personal confidence, leadership skills, pastoral care ability and theological capacity resulting in the eventual Presbytery resolution that Tupe was ready for ordination. The climax of the service was clearly the laying-on of hands, pictured above (inset), in the spiritual affirmation and empowerment of Tupe's calling.

The congregation and special guests were treated afterwards to traditional and very special Samoan hospitality.

REv. John Mann says: "The whole event was a proud moment for Tupe and his family, the Samoan community and the whole of the Presbytery. Such ordinations are an all-too-rare picture of what Presbyteries are called to be. Tupe has since been inducted into his placement by his new Presbytery and we continue to pray for him and his family in this new ministry."

Turn to Page 3 to read Tupe's moving letter of thanks following his ordination service...

If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to newsbeat@ucappep.org



AFRICAN RHYTHMS



Beautiful Africa: A New Generation
WATOTO PRESENTS

Watoto
RESCUE RAISE REBUILD

YOU ARE INVITED TO BEAUTIFUL AFRICA: A NEW GENERATION

With vibrant, new original music, dance routines, life-transforming stories; and exciting audiovisual effects, the tour is indicative of the dynamic generation of leaders coming out of the Watoto programme.

With a message of hope and inspiration, experience the Watoto Children's Choir - ambassadors of the millions of orphan and vulnerable children in Africa

WHEN: August 9th, 2012. 6.30pm.

WHERE: St John's Uniting Church
567 Glenhuntly Road
Elsternwick VIC 3185

WWW.WATOTO.COM

NEED an uplifting, vibrant experience of storytelling, music and dance that will make your heart sing? Good, because St John's UC, Elsternwick is hosting the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda THIS Thursday August 9 at 6.30pm. One of the members from St John's went to Uganda last year, volunteering on a house building project in one of their villages. After supporting the trip, the congregation decided to continue its support for the work of Watoto by hosting one of their performances. Coming from Uganda as ambassadors for the millions of orphaned and vulnerable children in Africa, the choir will perform in the church at St John's Uniting Church. Their programme, just an hour and a quarter in length, includes vibrant, original music, dance, story and exciting audio-visual effects. Please come along and support their work. There is no charge for the concert but there will be an offering taken for the work of Watoto. Look at their website www.watoto.com for more details.

Life's funny like that...

"Surreal moment... travelling on a bus at the UCA National Assembly, surrounded by Bishops of churches from nations all over the world, listening to Justin Beiber. Several of them, if not actually singing, are tapping a finger or two. It's been a week of revelations that shouldn't really have been revelations...."

For the rest of Cath Taylor's witty and insightful blog about her recent UCA National Assembly experience visit <http://unitingworld.org.au/blogs/down-to-earth-down-under/>



Bursary applicants sought

Applications are requested for two bursaries Australia wide which to date have had only 5 applications over the last two years and none from Victoria!

The bursaries will contribute to study in 2012, and possibly for 2013.

Lencie Harding, of Glen Waverley UC, explains: "The bursaries were awarded for study in 2011 and 2012 to interstate applicants who fortunately were excellent."

There are two bursaries valued at \$1500 available each year.

Normally each state is invited by

the UCAF National Committee to publicise them from February of the new year, with the closing date for applications being May 31st. However, a new UCAF National Committee (now in WA) has just taken over and while they settle into their new role they decided to extend the closing date for applications to August 31st.

I would be so thrilled if some applications were received from Victoria as I'm sure would Joan Stott after whom the bursary is named."



Are you:

- Committed to, or already studying for leadership or theology within the ethos of the Uniting Church
- Under 35 years of age

Could you use funds:

- To pay fees to your 'Place of Study'
- To pay for additional courses or resources

Apply now for a Joan Stott Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Bursary

Contact:

Mr David Wang for more info and an application form to be returned to him by 31st August
david.wang@victas.uca.org.au

China Christian Council comes to Cornish College



Senior Members of China's thriving Protestant church were in Australia for the 13th Annual Assembly recently and took the opportunity to learn from the UCA's experience of unity and ability to develop new relationships.

Part of their visit involved the exploration of community links, particularly in education and social services, so members of the Port Phillip East Presbytery took them on a tour of the award-winning Cornish College - a flagship school in the UCA portfolio. China Christian Council (CCC) President Rev Gao Feng said that the visit was extremely significant because the Chinese Church has much to learn from the Uniting Church experience of unity and community interaction.



Above: Rev Robert Johnson, of High Street UC, outlines the history and relationship of Cornish College and the UCA.



Above: Guest star...China Christian Council delegates show their fascination with Cornish College's frill-neck lizard

'A wonderful new beginning' for Tupe

Dear Secretary, the Rev. John Mann and the Presbytery of Port Phillip East.

It is with great joy to take this opportunity to acknowledge my gratitude of thanksgiving to God for having been able to journey in faith within the Presbytery of Port Phillip East. I believe that I have been well supported both physically and spiritually throughout the journey.

It was an unpredictable and rough and tough journey since the Period of Discernment, but the contributions by individuals



and each group which helped nurture the journey through prayers has brought a wonderful new beginning marked by the Service of Ordination on Saturday the 21st of July, 2012.

I am privileged to thank Rev. Ian Ferguson for the wonderful and meaningful service that begins a new journey with a new identity in Christ. I will also like to thank the Mentors, the Presbytery Education Committee and all the Church communities that I have been involved. Thanks to every member of the Presbytery for their trust and their prayers which upheld and embraced this fruitful and life giving journey.

I will like to acknowledge that the Presbytery has helped with my formation in the way of Christ and now I understand how it feels and what it means to be loved and supported. You have helped me to see through the eyes of Christ, hear through the ears of Christ, reach out through the touch of Christ, walk in the footsteps of Christ, and love through the heart of Christ.

I will take them on board with the gifts of God which are already in me to help and support the ministry of God for God's people and creation. From the bottom of my heart, I will like to say it once again, thank you all for your contribution, love, and care.

May the peace and the overflowing grace of God be upon you now and forever.

In fellowship,
Rev. Tupe loelu.

Voices for Justice 2012

15-18 September

In recent years we have seen our Government take some significant steps in the effort to alleviate global poverty - our aid budget is increasing and poverty is present in politics and the media.

But Australia is still not doing its fair share in international efforts to fight poverty so we must continue to take the cause of the world's poorest people into the halls and corridors of Parliament House.

At Voices for Justice 2010 gathering, then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd referred to Micah Challenge supporters as "nagging prophets" for our persistent lobbying of politicians to care about global poverty. He urged us to continue. Voices for Justice is your opportunity to raise your voice to influence government policy for the world's poorest people. Join together with hundreds of Christians from all over the country as we pray, worship, learn and speak out for a world of justice and compassion. This year's event will be the last Voices for Justice before the next federal election and will be the launch of our 'Finish the Race' campaign.

Whether you're an experienced or beginner campaigner, come be inspired, informed, equipped, and turn your conviction into action. Meet other like-minded advocates and meet your MP too!

Registration for Voices
for Justice 2012
Standard Rate

\$185 Adult

\$140 Student/unwaged

Registrations close

on 17 August 2012.

Registrations are
limited to 300 people,
so get in quick!
details available

on [www.](http://www.micahchallenge.org.au)

[micahchallenge.org.au](http://www.micahchallenge.org.au)

Port Melbourne Uniting Church Winter Warmer

Saturday 25th August 2012, 6.30pm

**What does Climate Change mean for
Christians?**

**What would a zero carbon Australia look
like?**

Come and join us for a community meal and
presentation & discussion about these topics.

Guest presenter: Marquerite Marshall

*Marquerite is a Christian, journalist and author and has been a climate
campaigner for about 35 years. She has undertaken training on the Al
Gore presentation Our Choice and on Zero Carbon Australia, Stationary
Energy Plan and draws on biblical teachings in her presentations.*

Port Melbourne Uniting Church
Cnr Bridge & Nott Sts
Port Melbourne

RSVP:
Wed 22nd August,
ph 9690 1188



Prayers for Peace

The World Council of Churches asks
member churches to pray for:

- The International Day of Prayers
for Peace on September 21.
Resources are available on [http://
www.overcomingviolence.org/en/
resources-dov/wcc-resources/
worship-prayers.html](http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/resources-dov/wcc-resources/worship-prayers.html)
- Refugee and Migrant Sunday – 26
August 26, 2012

Bring me sunshine

Solar power for Churches is a practical
guide for churches that are considering
installing solar panels or solar hot
water. Visit [http://greenchurch.victas.
uca.org.au/what-are-churches-doing/
solar-power/](http://greenchurch.victas.uca.org.au/what-are-churches-doing/solar-power/) or for a hard copy phone
the JIM unit on (03) 9251 5271.

Caption competition

Hmmm.... what were they thinking? We asked
Here's the best of the responses:



- *'The Crows got done!'* by Lencie Harding
(Editor's note: Greg Crowe is a keen supporter of the Adelaide Crows.... although they beat Essendon on Sunday so it's not strictly accurate this week.)
- *"They said there would be more cake!"*
by John Mann



"What do you mean I am out of tune?" by
John Mann

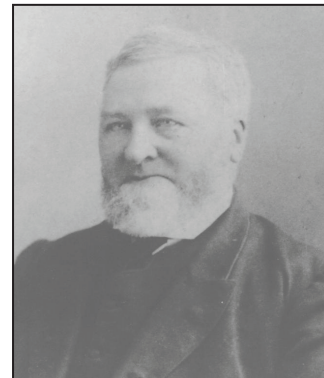
Blast from the past

TWO of Victoria's historical church heavyweights are to be remembered once more at a special ceremony this September.

William and Mary Ann (Ramsdale) Witton were pioneer Wesleyan Methodists in Melbourne (1837-1843), the Western District (1844-1870) and Gippsland (1870-1886/8).

William Witton was a leading Local Preacher and, at the Jubilee Gathering of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the new Grand Exhibition Building in 1886, was named *Father of Methodism in Victoria*.

The Witton gravestone was erected by Methodist Local Preachers in Victoria and Friends and underwent renovation work in the late 1960s. However, in recent years the gravestone deteriorated and collapsed. The Lay Preachers' Association of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania made sure the damage wasn't terminal with the latest restoration of the Witton grave, which included a replacement gravestone. To fund the project donations were received from lay preachers, friends and Witton descendants. Funds have also been raised from the sale of a book researched and published by the *Rev Dr Barry T Brown - William Witton (1811-1886): Almost Perpetual Curate*. Copies of the book will be on sale at the Gathering (\$25).



Join us for a Special Gathering to mark the
Restoration of the Historic Witton Grave,
Warragul Cemetery, Victoria Street on

Sunday 9th September 2012
Service at the Graveside - 2.00pm

Gathering at Warragul Uniting Church -
3.00 - 5.00pm

(Corner of Friend and Sutton Streets)

Welcome and Introductions
Remembering the Wittons
Afternoon Tea (donation)

RSVP for catering purposes by 2nd
September - Peter Morris
52 Loch Road, Traralgon, Victoria 3844
Telephone (03) 5174 1897 Email pitar@bigpond.net.au



Come and meet up with new and old Somers friends at the Post Somers Worship evening...

- share the Somers experience with family and friends
- invite someone new to Somers
- collect your camp DVD

Sunday 12 August 6pm
@ Village Uniting Church, Canadian Bay
Road, Mount Eliza
Followed by supper.
For more details phone Camp Mum on
0410 827 597.



Gala night boosts appeal coffers

FUNDRAISING can be a tough business but when you have the support of your church, community groups, friends and family it makes the task much easier - and more fun!

This was how the Gala Trivia Night to raise money for Helen Beeby's North India Challenge UW mission trip came into being and recently generated a fabulous \$3,226 towards the total.

Helen says: "This was such a team effort and even though I'll be the one visiting the schools in India everyone else will be with me in spirit, because it is working together that has made it all possible."



Pictured above and right in the function room (donated by Benito's Restaurant, Mt Eliza) are two of the trivia groups from HSUC



The target for the Challenge is \$8,000 per person and the pooled money for the Australia-wide group will fund education for women and girls in N India for a year.



Winter Appeal 2012

Sharing is caring

SHARE has announced its breakdown of grant-giving. Grants allocated to the Presbytery of Port Phillip East amount to a fantastic total of \$145,973:

- Operation Larder Inc Meals Program \$6,000
- Churches of Christ / Chelsea Care Works Meals Program \$10,000
- Connections UnitingCare Child and Family \$35,473
- Creative Ministries Arts Fund Community Support \$3,000
- Narre Warren Christian Church Child and Family \$6,500
- Prahran Mission UnitingCare Meals Program \$15,000
- South Port UnitingCare Child and Family \$10,000
- South Port UnitingCare Community Support \$37,000
- St Kilda UnitingCare Emergency Relief \$15,000
- UnitingCare Harrison Meals Program \$8,000



A Celebration of Creation 'A photographic journey through Tasmania and South Australia'

by Alan & Bronwen Mathews in aid of the North India Challenge.
 Sunday, August 12, 2pm. Entry: \$5 including Afternoon Tea. Plus tips on taking great photographs and a prize draw of framed photo by Alan at end of presentation
 Contact Helen Beeby; 0434 412104/helen.beeby@gmail.com or Alan Mathews; 0417 344247/ alanm@aanet.com.au



During the current Season of Pentecost we are praying for the following congregations, agencies or schools:

- August 12: Pent 11 [19] Haileybury College and Haileybury Faith Community
- August 19: Pent 12 [20] Hampton congregation, Uniting Care Community Options
- August 26: Pent 13 [21] Chaplains to hospitals and homes for the aged in our Presbytery

Quote...

"Most of us wait until we're in trouble, and then we pray like the dickens. Wonder what would happen if, some morning, we'd wake up and say, 'Anything I can do for You today, Lord?'"

Burton Hillis

...of the month

Weaving Connections



<http://blogs.victas.uca.org.au/weavingconnections/>

WEAVING Connections is a creative project of the UCA and Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to investigate social entrepreneurship and social enterprise in the regeneration of the church's call to God's mission - aka **Fresh Expressions of Church**.

Fresh Expressions of Church is a movement established within the Church of England, some Anglican Communion and some mainline churches in the UK, Canada and Australia that have a strong interest in 'emerging church'. The Weaving Connections inquiry includes workshops and site visits with Lord Mawson and Rev. Peter Southcombe of the United Reformed Church, UK to explore aspects of the *One Church, 100 Uses*.

Weaving Connections is led by John A. Emmett, Kirsty A. Bennett and Rev. Paul W. Stephens - some in the visiting group are ordained ministers, all are church members. The group includes skills in practical theology (missiology and Christian education), education, social enterprise, Christian ministry, pastoral care, church administration, architecture, major project coordination, community service and community organization. Of the visiting group, six people come from various Uniting Churches around Melbourne, Victoria. Four people come from three Uniting Churches located in Hobart, Tasmania.

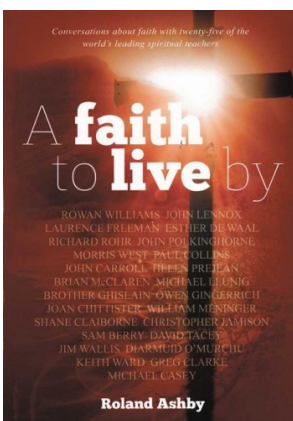
Weaving Connections is sponsored jointly by the **Commission for Mission** and the **Property Board**. Contributors to the blog are involved in the Weaving Connection project and visited the United Kingdom during August and September 2011 to experience the Fresh Expressions of Church phenomena in person. Find out more about this exciting new direction at <http://blogs.victas.uca.org.au/weavingconnections/>

Bookworm corner

MELBOURNE writer Roland Ashby has condensed 25 chats with leading Christian authors, teachers and scholars into an easy-to-read format in a thought provoking book called *A faith to live by*.

Whether all qualify to be listed as '25 of the world's leading spiritual teachers' a personal judgement. But, that is something which does not detract from a broad range of teaching offered

by the individuals Ashby has spoken with in his role as editor of The Melbourne Anglican. **A faith to live by**, Roland Ashby, Mosaic Press, Preston, 2012



Saturday 15 September 8pm
Sunday 16 September 3pm
Friday 21 September 8pm
Saturday 22 September 3pm

St. Leonard's Uniting Church Hall
2 Wolseley Grove, Brighton

For more Information: 9592 9333, contact@stleonards.org.au
Bookings: www.trybooking.com/BOOT

Limited Seats! Book Now!

Footloose is presented through special arrangement with ORIGIN (TM) Theatrical on behalf of R & H Theatrical : www.rnh.com

Stage adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie
Based on the Original Screenplay by Dean Pitchford

Music by Tom Snow Lyrics by Dean Pitchford
Additional Music by Eric Carmen, Sammy Hagar, Kenny Loggins and Jim Steinman

Visit the Presbytery website at www.ucaprep.org for news & events, leadership education and more....

Branding - a hot topic

WITH fears of dwindling congregations and financial constraints facing the church it was interesting to read a modern take on a possible solution in a blog featured on www.mychristiandaily.com

The piece discussed the question of applying current marketing principles to church practices. We've decided to print a small section and invite reader responses..

"Let me ask you something – should churches be into marketing? Is it really appropriate? Should we be following secular ways? My answer, is an unequivocal ABSOLUTELY!

Here's why: In the first century, there were two secular conduits that allowed the Gospel to spread – the road and port infrastructure (thanks to the Roman Empire) and the almost universally spoken koine Greek language (thanks to Greece). Without those, you could argue, the church might not be what she is in the 21st Century AD. Today, these conduits have been largely supplanted by two equally pervasive ones - branding and media. What is a brand? A brand is a compelling story that surrounds a person, a product or an organisation. And, as Seth Godin puts it, marketing is no longer about the stuff that you make but the stories you tell.

So, if the Church is in the business of telling God's compelling story and if branding and marketing are the Roman roads and Greek language of the 21st century, why are we not using them? And what does a Thai Restaurant have to do with all this?

Well a few weeks back I visited a Thai restaurant in a little place called Buderim, Queensland. Food was great, service was great. The thing that caught my eye though, was a small flyer on our table saying: To thank you for your feedback, we would like to give you a FREE 3 course meal for your birthday.

There was a feedback form on the back, with a spot for your name, mobile number and e-mail address so they could send you the free meal voucher. I went and asked the owner Gareth (he ain't even Thai) about it.

This is what he told me: "We've been doing this for about 3 years and we have ..." wait for this "around 3,500 names on our database. We send them special offers etc. and most nights we're full." Just let that sink in. A small, ordinary restaurant with a simple marketing idea and they're going gangbusters! Why? Firstly they have a great product. Secondly, they've engaged their audience with something to think about and an offer they can't refuse. Thirdly, they've found a way to do some ongoing marketing to keep people coming back.

Lots and lots of churches have a pretty good, sometimes brilliant product. God is moving in those faith communities, touching people, healing them, transforming lives. But have they figured out a way of telling people about it? Have they figured out a way of expressing their compelling value proposition to their constituency in such a way as to make it an offer people can't refuse?

Yet I'm not talking about turning our churches into some shallow compromise that appeals to the world. Not at all. Just remember...

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the

Letters to the Editor

Dear Newsbeat

Enclosed is an invitation to you and your family, friends and colleagues, to attend the annual St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church Veterans and PeaceKeepers "Healing the Wounds of War" Memorial Service on Sunday 19 August 2012.

If attendees would like to have lunch with everyone after the service there is a small charge of \$7. For catering purposes, please email or phone me if you wish to attend the luncheon on 9692 9426 or 0408 558 187

Kind regards -

Margaret Neith

St. George's East St. Kilda UC

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the
Kokoda Campaign, and the sacrifice of
Bruce Kingsbury VC at Isurava

ST. GEORGE'S EAST ST. KILDA UNITING CHURCH
4 CHAPEL STREET, EAST ST. KILDA

SUNDAY 19 AUGUST 2012
ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE
10:30 AM

Remembering the 14 Battalion and the 97th anniversary
of the death at Gallipoli of their Chaplain, REV. ANDREW GILLISON

GUEST SPEAKERS

Theme: Personal stories from the
Kokoda Track during WWII

Peter Holloway - 39 Battalion
Bob Iskov - 2/14 Battalion
Cam Thompson - 2/14 Battalion

Battalion
flags and
banners to be
marched into the
Church.
Medals to be
worn.

FEATURING

Candle-lighting for remembrance
Music by the Band of the 2/10 Field Regiment RAA
Presentation of a Commemorative DVD 'Healing the Wounds of War'

LUNCH

Hosted by the 2/10 Field Regiment RAA and
St. George's congregation. Lunch \$7:00.
RSVP 9692 9426 if attending lunch

Lunch bookings: **RSVP** by 7 August by phoning 03 9692 9426
All other inquiries: Rev. Angela Tampiyappa 03 9731 0604

bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matt 5:14-16)

Should churches be marketing and re-branding? Let us know what you think by e-mailing Letters to the Editor at newsbeat@ucappep.org Subject: Branding