

NEWSBEAT



DECEMBER 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Ministry magnetism. Where did they start? Turn to page 6 to learn more about our MDC drivers.



Facing the future. Families find bags of fun at this church festival. See the story and pictures on page 2.

Shen opens The Side Door at St John's

ADVENT seems a particularly appropriate time to welcome groundbreaking church mission projects.

One such breakthrough is the official launch of *The Side Door* Social Justice Hub at St John's, Elsternwick.

The centre will be opened on **Monday, December 12th at 7.30pm**, and the ecumenical committee has secured Shen Narayanasamy of 'Get Up' as guest speaker.

Narayanasamy is a founder of No Business in Abuse (NBIA) and the more recent Let Them Stay campaign. She has been fighting political battles since 1998, when she helped organise a high-school walkout against Pauline Hanson.

'The Side Door' is an initiative of St.

John's but involves a growing network of organisations with a passion for social justice issues, writes *Rev Philip Liebelt*. Currently BRASA, Bayside Amnesty and the Australian Jewish Democratic Society join St. John's on a Steering Committee, with other organisations actively supporting the venture or waiting to join the committee in the future.

The decision to develop this centre grows out of a long term commitment that St. John's has had to Social Justice and a number of programmes it has been offering over the years. Building on this there was a desire to respond to partnerships that were being made with other groups who share the passion and have joined St. John's for various activities. Synod staff from the JIM unit, Share and the Interfaith network have shown interest and given supportive advice. The aim is that the work of the centre will be both ecumenical and across faiths.

It is anticipated that the centre, **at the corner of 567 Glen Huntly Road and Foster Street, Elsternwick**, will host a range of speaking opportunities; film nights; education events; appeals for practical aid for those in need; direct actions from letter-writing to participation in marches etc; a Book Club; a Drop-in centre, and raising the profile

Cont. on page 2



Advent means "preparation". We invite you to join in two weeks of free activities, stories, games and sharing food as we prepare for Christmas, followed by Carols by Candlelight.

After school activities:

Thursday 1st Dec
and 8th Dec, 4:00-5:30pm
snacks and light meal provided

Carols by Candlelight:

Thursday 15th Dec, 7:00-8:00pm
safe flame candles provided

Activities suitable for pre-school to primary aged children.

Please note all children must be accompanied by a parent or adult carer

For more information please contact:
Rev. Hoon You 0403 369 781, hoonyou@gmail.com



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



Cont. from front page
 on a range of social justice issues through various means. We are pleased to be able to have Shen involved in the launch. Shen is Human Rights Director at 'Get Up' and founder of 'No Business in Abuse', the campaign against investment in companies involved with Australia's offshore detention centres. Shen has a background in human rights and advocacy working in Australia and across the Asia Pacific on issues of economic justice and land rights. She was the Economic Justice Advocacy Coordinator with Oxfam in 2010, after working as a lawyer at Norton Rose Fullbright. Shen recently appeared on the ABC's Q&A program in an episode focusing on Australia's refugee policy. St. John's would welcome the involvement of any other Uniting Churches in this venture. Inquiries can be made to Rev Philip Liebelt, 0400 631264 philipliebelt@gmail.com

Christian unity in Chadstone

MOUNT Waverley Chadstone Interchurch Council ran its annual Food for Friends Appeal recently, with superb results.

Members of 10 local churches took turns to stand outside the local Ritchies IGA supermarket, *writes Margery Kennett*, pictured in pink.

"We hand out a flyer inviting people to buy an extra item or donate cash to make Christmas happier for people in need. Each church chooses its recipient. This year we collected 96 full fruit boxes and \$900 in cash. The sorting and packing is done each afternoon by the ICC members at St John's UC in Virginia Street, Mt Waverley."

Pictured with Margery is a couple, Alan and Jill

from Kingsbury, who volunteer for Lentara Broadmeadows. They have come all the way to pick up the boxes for several years.

Christian connections

PARTICIPATING CHURCHES in the Interchurch Appeal are:

The Anglican Church of St Philip, St Stephen & St Mary Holy Family Catholic

Church Christ our Holy Redeemer St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Church High St Road Uniting Church.

St John's Uniting Church St Luke's Uniting Church St Mark's Chadstone Uniting Church The New Church

RECIPIENT ORGANISATIONS are:

Lentara Uniting Care Monash Waverley CIS Uniting Church Connections Dandenong Asylum Seeker Centre St Vincent de Paul Society Anglicare St Mark's Mission at Fitzroy Dixon House East Oakleigh Asylum Seekers



Family values at St Martin's

BEAUMARIS Uniting Church had a fantastic Community Twilight Fete in November involving the Playgroup, the Kinder and Calisthenics that all use the church. It was a wonderful night with a huge food hall, BBQ, fantastic crafts, toys, New & Used clothing, Plants, Trash n' Treasure and many outside community organisations. There was also face painting and a jumping castle plus a collection of "old" games free for children to play, and activities also in the Kinder room. What a joy to see young mums trying to teach little three year olds how to hula hoop.



Make up magic... Alison Davies brightens up the lives of the little ones at the Community Twilight Fair in Beaumaris with some face paints

Walking the path of faith together

AFTER 15 years at the helm of the Commission for Mission Rev David Pargeter opted to hang up his Synod hat and responded to a call from a Port Phillip East congregation.

On Sunday, November 20 members of Presbytery joined with members of the St Kilda Parish Mission for the induction of the Rev David Pargeter. The Chairperson of the Presbytery, the Rev Dr Tony Floyd presided

assisted by members of the Presbytery. David spoke about his desire to work with the congregation and community using a 'we' mentality. He is extremely enthusiastic about getting to know those in the community and within the congregation. David was previously Executive Director for the Commission for Mission at the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.



The Rev Fiona Winn, the Chair of the Joint Nominating Committee, preached on what is distinctive about a Christian Community and particularly the practice of baptism. She shared a comment made by a member of her Congregation at Armadale: "So as baptised people we are continuing the creation of God... which is our mission."

by Ian Firth



Oh come all ye faithful

Beaumaris Uniting Church, also known as St. Martins, celebrates 40 years of Community Carols this Christmas.

That's four decades of Christmas music! They will gather once more, at 7.45pm on Christmas Eve in the Beaumaris Community Reserve (in hall if wet.)

All welcome.

The Christmas journey takes on a contemporary flavour

CHELSEA Parish is sharing the love and hope this Christmas.

From December 14 until January 8 they will have eight Advent stations, called "Journey to Christmas



Morning," outside the church, finishing up with the stable scene set up in the main front window. The stations each have a reading, a topical reflection and a prayer. The idea is to offer some quiet reflection space to all those who use the car park, the grounds to walk dogs, hire rooms, plus church members. Although the stations tell a story and form a reflective walk, they are also stand-alone so that people can read just one or two and be prompted to consider contemporary justice issues, alongside a witness to our Christian faith. Beside these stations is a version for children called "Gather the Stars." There is a multiple choice quiz with all the possible answers on stars around the outside of the church. And the stable is working overtime, yet again. Pictured are a few of the wonderful Chelsea Parish crew at Frankston's Festival of Lights. About 100 groups dressed up in costume to be pictured in the stable. When you consider groups included 4-8 people, that's quite a crowd dressing up as wise men and angels!

BETHLEHEM IN BRIGHTON

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD
10 AM TIL 1 PM**

FREE ENTRY

**INTERACTIVE NATIVITY
LIVE MUSIC
ANIMAL FARM
NATIVITY PHOTOS
CAKE STALL
CRAFT ACTIVITIES
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
PLUS MORE**

**PRESENTED BY THE COMBINED CHURCHES OF BRIGHTON
IN THE GROUNDS OF ST ANDREWS CHURCH
CNR CHURCH ST AND NEW ST, BRIGHTON**

Jam group sticks to its faith at special confirmation service

THERE was much to celebrate in the Officer Pakenham Mission Area, OPMA, recently when 12 young people testified at their Confirmation Service. The six week old 'jam group' surprised the congregation with their very polished musical item *The Path* during the service. Rev Ann Simons and the group thanked Julie Waters for her input over the period, and wished her well as she moves to her new home on Phillip Island. The 'jam' group is continuing with assistance from students from Lakeside Lutheran College. Any donations of musical instruments will be most welcomed. Contact Ann on revannsim@gmail.com if you can help.



Three decades of dedication... also pictured, below, are Rev Ann Simons and Marie Harding thanking member Colin Smith for his 30 years of service on the Beaconhills College Board.



CHRISTMAS
at St. Leonard's Uniting Church
Cnr. New St & Wolseley Grove Brighton www.stleonards.org.au

10am Sunday Dec. 11 Christmas Pageant.
A special celebration for all children. They are invited to come along and dress up to be part of the Christmas story. Plus: Animal Nursery!

7pm Sunday Dec. 11 Quiet Christmas
Remembering those who have previously shared Christmas with us.

10am Sunday Dec. 18 Carols
Choral singing with the *Young Voices of Melbourne* choir.

7pm Christmas Eve Children's Christmas

9.30am Christmas Day Celebration for all the family.

Intercultural connections

The next meeting of the CROSS CULTURAL NETWORK will be held on Tuesday, December 6th at 10.45am for an 11am start. The meeting will be held at Monash UC, 1939 Princes Highway, Clayton North. Notes of the CCN meeting held on 4th October will be sent out together with agenda items for discussion closer to the meeting, but please put the date in your diary now! Thank you.



THE Centre for Theology and Ministry has compiled an Advent Resource Smorgasbord packed with ideas and ways to celebrate Advent. Click the link <http://www.ctmresourcing.org.au/blog/ctm-picks/> to explore a range of videos, music suggestions, books, reflections, theological material and much more

compiled by the CTM staff that you might find useful in the Advent-Christmas season. For other interesting Advent ideas, such as sourcing scriptural Advent calendars head to <http://www.buildfaith.org/advent-calendars/>

Ecumenical winner returns

COMBINED Churches of Oakleigh Carols in the Park will be held on **Friday, December 2, 7.30pm - 9.30 pm at Warrawee Park (wet weather venue - Sacred Heart Girls College Hall.)** It is in its 11th year and started in response to awareness of cultural sensitivities about worship spaces in the parish. Hosted by the Churches of Oakleigh, it brings together schools and community groups, reflecting our multicultural community sharing peace, goodwill and the message of Christmas. It has won a Synod Ecumenical Award. All are welcome.



YOUR LOCAL Christmas Carols

7:30pm on Sunday, December 18

Live band, close to home, ideal for young kids, supper following, and dog-friendly

**HEATHERTON-DINGLEY UNITING CHURCH
HEATHERTON**

cnr. Kingston & Old Dandenong Rds.
(the little white church on the corner)



Quote

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this."

C. S. Lewis

of the month

Blue Christmas

7.30pm Wednesday 14th December 2016
Koornang Uniting Church
117 Murrumbeena Rd Murrumbeena

A quiet and reflective service for anyone who finds Christmas a difficult time of the year.

Christ has no body

On earth but ours. No hands

but ours, No feet but ours.

Ours are the eyes through which

The compassion of Christ Looks out upon the world,

Ours are the feet with which He goes about doing good,

Ours are the hands with which He blesses his people.

St Theresa of Avila



Releasing the Church

TWENTY ministers from our Presbytery gathered at Springvale Uniting Church recently to listen to colleagues share their ministry experiences.

Speakers were introduced by Rev Dr Robert Johnson and the morning was hosted by the Mission Development Committee.

Rev Paul Creasey from Springvale, raised the importance of working out the ground rules first when creating partnerships between the church and the wider community. He posed questions such as; how do we take the now into the future and proprietorial ownership.

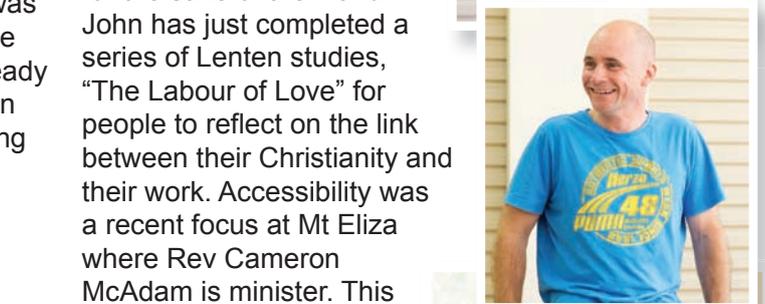
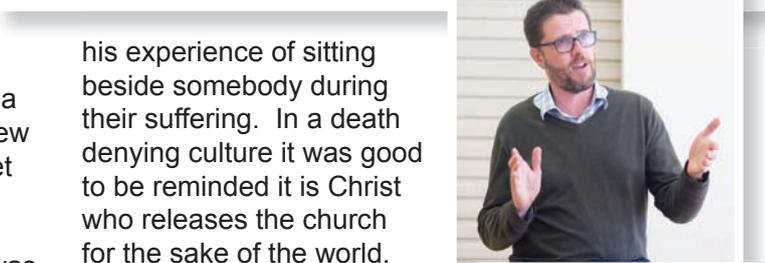
We were reminded by Rev Mat Harry from South Casey to celebrate the victories! Using social media has become an effective tool in his ministry. The new

Rev Ann Simons reflects on the MDC gathering on experiences that shape ministry

market place is the tablet and mobile phone. We were reminded that the apostle Paul's ministry was in the market place of the day. Jump In! God is already there! Rev Jay Robinson

from Frankston enthused us all with her story relating to the "Voices of Frankston" choir. People from all walks of life now call the Frankston Church 'home.' Jay said this was not necessary what they were looking for when they started community singing however, God had other plans.

Rev John Bottomley from the Creative Ministries Network had a moving incident early in his career that became part of his ministry formation. He spoke of



his experience of sitting beside somebody during their suffering. In a death denying culture it was good to be reminded it is Christ who releases the church for the sake of the world. John has just completed a series of Lenten studies, "The Labour of Love" for people to reflect on the link between their Christianity and their work. Accessibility was a recent focus at Mt Eliza where Rev Cameron McAdam is minister. This can take on many shape and forms. A recent 'cup of coffee' with a new

friend has opened the doors to a Schools Ministry Strategy in that neck of the woods. "God's grace has no boundaries" says Cam. The meeting



spoke of setting up a social media network that would serve as a resource for sharing ideas of mission and education. The Mission Development

Committee will be approaching Standing Committee for a time-frame in Presbytery meetings for these conversations to help develop the overall Presbytery Strategy.

Photos by Rev Hoon You

Give a meaningful gift this Christmas

EVERYTHING COMMON GIFT STALL

UniteWorld
connecting communities for life
An Agency of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia

share
COMMUNITY APPEAL

YOU

ARE INVITED TO ST MARK'S SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE CHRISTMAS MARKET.

50 Barkly St., Mornington.

DEC 9. 5-9pm; DEC 10 10am -2pm

TAKE SELFIES IN OUR NATIVITY SCENE
[Costumes available]
or "GET A PIC WITH ST NIC!"
the original Father Christmas
Ph. 5975 1943; 0412 233 298

Reflections on Faith

What's on

The fifth Community Carols in the Village will be held on Friday 9 December from 6.30 to 8.00 pm in the carpark at Hamilton Place, Mt Waverley. Everyone is welcome with free admission and seating is provided.

Join in the Community Singing led by various community choirs and musical groups.

Bring the family!

There will be children's activities including dressing up to join in a nativity scene with 'Mary and Joseph'. Parents are welcome to take photos. Come one. Come all!

For more information contact Margery at mbkennett@bigpond.com 98704084.



Advent

Conversations at Hampton UC

- **The Magi: Astrologers? Kings? Sages? Sunday 11 December.**
- **Refugee: the flight to Egypt and the new Moses, Sunday 18 December.**

These studies will explore the first two Chapters of Matthew's Gospel, drawing on Christian art from places like Japan, Uganda, ancient Rome and Switzerland. They will include a time of reflection and a contemporary Christmas carol that brings Matthew's message home to our world.

Please join us at 5 pm in the Parish Centre

A simple meal of soup and sandwiches will follow.

RSVP and a gold coin donation would be appreciated to assist with catering:

Tim Angus 0400 383 628 or Ian Menzies 0403 727 080

CHRISTMAS, a story refreshingly new.

Inspiration for poets, musicians, and artists' works depicted in Cathedral, Church and Chapel design.

Occasion for pilgrimage and procession.

Carolling, joy and giving. Wondrous for children. Linked to the past, but ever present.

A journey of faith, with sign posts on the way. Fulfilment of prophecy. Assurance to the faithful and peoples oppressed and downtrodden, looking for a coming One who would bring peace.

At centre, little Bethlehem, foretold to be his birthplace. A significant star followed by Magi, its position indicating the site of a royal birth, bringing gifts. Shepherds in the fields on a starry night, minding their sheep. Angels round about. A young couple, Mary and Joseph, Mary very pregnant, housed in a stable; there is no other room. Mary with a secret in her heart. The simplicity of it all. In what other way, or place, would God act?

A poignant and breathless pause.

Silence in heaven and on earth. Waiting.

Suddenly, the cry of a tiny babe.

"Unto us a son is given" echoed the word of the prophet. Who first heard the news? An angel went to the shepherds out in the fields. Terrified, they were at once reassured.

"Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you, you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth, lying in a manger."

At this the heavens erupted with the sound of a choir of angels, a great Hallelujah Chorus, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth among those on whom his favour rests".

In Bethlehem, was born a king, a good shepherd. On the word from an angel, the child was named Jesus, a name above every other name, which perfectly fits.

At this wonderful season of Christmas, with giving to the less fortunate, prayers for peace, compassion for refugees, as once was our Lord, and urgent action to aid those who have lost livelihood, homes and loved ones, through natural disaster and conflict, who will have no Christmas like us.



Loving Father,

help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels,

the gladness of the shepherds and the wisdom of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake,

Amen

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)



The wondrous story of Christmas by Bill Pugh



Dates for your diary

Please note the ordination of Kharis Susilowati will take place on Saturday afternoon, 10 Dec at Dandenong (Trinity) UC, cnr of Scott and Robinson Sts Dandenong. The service will start at 2.30 pm.

We suggest you allow extra time to find a car park as parking can be a challenge in this part of Dandenong.

New leadership paves the way for PPEP future

THE November Presbytery in Council meeting was held at the Cook Islands Church in Clayton, where the Cook Islanders were gracious hosts.

The meeting commenced with a number of their congregation greeting us in song. We then had a number of presentations – Heather Hon a ministry candidate reported on her first year of study, the Presbytery Communications Task Group took members on a journey through the Presbytery website (well worth a visit), Laura Cregan spoke to us about the work of SHARE, Belinda Clear and Cam McAdam gave us a sobering reminder about the need for Working With Children Checks and the Victorian Child Safe Standards - legislation with which the Church must comply and lastly Jay Robinson talked to us about the upcoming NCYC in Sydney. A Memorial Minute was passed remembering the life and witness of Mr John Garrett, a past Chairperson of Western Port Presbytery. We also elected the Rev Andrew Boyle as our new Presbytery Chairperson and the Rev Cam McAdam, below, as Deputy Presbytery Chairperson.

Andrew, right, is currently minister at the Ormond congregation. For nine months during 2015 he acted in a supply role as Presbytery Minister Mission and Education, working alongside PMs Pastoral Care and Administration and gaining a broad insight into the life of the presbytery and the challenges and opportunities facing it. Prior to that he was in



ministry at Templestowe/Manningham which involved the merger of four congregations. He is qualified as an Intentional Interim Minister and has a passion for the church adapting to the changing circumstances it is facing. Before ministry, Andrew had a 15 year career in business. Cam McAdam is the minister at The Village Church, Mt Eliza,

on the Mornington Peninsula. His Committee experience includes: Mission and Education (Chair) and PRC in Western Victoria, Synod Presbytery Task Group leading to the amalgamation of the 14 to 8 presbyteries. Synod CRE Task Group and Synod Chaplaincy in State Schools Task Group (Convenor). Attended numerous synod, presbytery and church council meetings. Cam is passionate about mission and church growth and keen to see the Presbytery develop a strategy that includes strategic congregations, growth corridor and pioneering ministries. Cam is 44 years old; 12 years of ordained ministry, 23 years still to go.



by
Ian Firth



Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2017:

- **Wednesday, 22 February at Hampton**
- **Saturday, 17 June at Noble Park**
- **Wednesday, 26 July at Noble Park**
- **Wednesday, 27 September at Hampton Park**
- **Wednesday, 22 November at Mt Eliza**

Situation vacant

Drop-in Program Co-ordinator (half time)

Brunswick Uniting Church

Since 2007, Brunswick Uniting Church has operated a vibrant community drop-in program called "The Olive Way." It's open three days per week from 10am-1:30pm and welcomes a very diverse group of participants from the local community for a cuppa, light snacks, conversation and a weekly cooked lunch. The Olive Way program overlaps with a visual arts program, a dance group, and a seasonal musical production.

We're looking for an enthusiastic person who can co-ordinate volunteers, supervise our cook, and help maintain the welcoming community. The Olive Way Co-ordinator is not a Placement but does work as a member of the Ministry Team. Experience managing volunteers and working with people across the socio-economic spectrum are essential, as is a willingness and ability to work within the ethos of the Uniting Church. A relevant degree and/or experience in similar programs is desirable.

For more information, including a full Position Description, please contact Ann Soo on 0422 842 244 or annsoo11@tpg.com.au. Applications close on 10 December 2016.

The NEW Port Phillip East Presbytery website is an exciting additional resource tool for communication across our churches, agencies, schools and communities. We welcome submissions to the website, Newsbeat and Facebook, but should advise that photographs may be used across all unless instructed otherwise when submitted.