



# NEWSBEAT



APRIL 2018

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Breaking bread together takes on an ecumenical flavour on page 5.

“Look what I did?” on page 3



Shaping our future as a presbytery is gathering steam... chug to the back page to hear more about where we're up to with Cultivating our Future.

## Path of palms



HOLY Week marched in with a bit of a difference at High Street Uniting Church, Frankston with an interesting service in-the-round, pictured left. Pews were arranged around the edges of the worship space and a Palm Sunday path, complete with inflatable donkey for the little ones to enjoy, served as a diameter across the middle.

Several members of the congregation took part in a short drama re-enacting events as Jesus entered Jerusalem on a colt. Those in the pews were invited to write prayers, personal and global, on 'palm hands' given out on arrival and lay them on the Palm Sunday path. Truly a service for all age groups.



## Moderator's message promotes joy, hope and peace despite our pains



REV Sharon Hollis' Easter message this year reflects on personal tragedy, the suffering in the world and the meaning offered by Jesus' journey to the Cross in that fateful week more than 2,000 years ago. Filmed in the beautiful chapel at Queen's College in Melbourne - a place that has special meaning to her - our Moderator delivers a beautiful message. A message that touches on global problems, our individual concerns and how we can find comfort in the sacrifice Jesus made in delivering a sense of solidarity with all who suffer.

Only a couple of minutes long, it is well worth watching - if you haven't viewed it already... The first link takes you straight to it, if you're on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ucavictas/videos/1872680532764814/](https://www.facebook.com/ucavictas/videos/1872680532764814/) Or you can click through to it and other Easter matters on the Home page at <https://crosslight.org.au/>



## Send in the gowns

OUR Moderator also enjoys the lighter side of life and was up for a 'selfie' with Pastor Hannah Dungan at a special event in Melbourne recently.



Turn to page two to discover what the celebrations were all about...

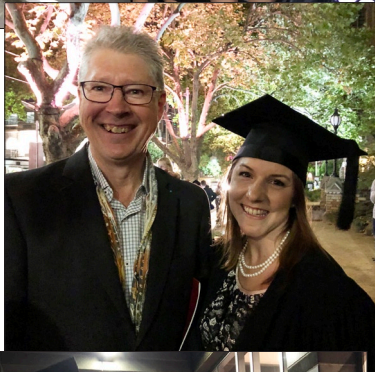
Port Phillip East Presbytery's vision & purpose: "Encouraging, resourcing and giving pastoral oversight to communities of faith and ministers entrusted to our pastoral care."



Cont. from front page

## Smiles all round on graduation night

IT was quite a number of folk from Port Phillip East Presbytery as graduates donned their caps and gowns for a special ceremony a few weeks ago. Delighted students, ministers, family and friends were at the University of Divinity Graduation Ceremony, at St Michael's Uniting Church, Collins Street, Melbourne, on the evening of Friday, March 16. Presbytery Chair, Rev Andrew Boyle, is pictured with graduate Hannah Dungan, Children & Families' Ministry Coordinator at St. Mark's, Mornington. Hannah was accompanied by proud mum, Lynette Dungan, top. While fellow graduates Heather Hon, Christina Rowntree (Andrew's wife) enjoyed a photo with Rev Eseta Meneilly and Hannah at the end of the evening.



## Fete continues to bring folk together

THE annual Fete at Monash Uniting Church was yet another triumph. Hundreds turned up on March 23/24 to bring and buy all manner of treasures in this special inter-cultural community.



. ISLAM . SIKHISM . BUDDHISM .  
. CHRISTIANITY . JUDAISM .

# MEN OF FAITH

FOLLOWING FROM THE WOMEN OF FAITH EVENT  
SUNDAY . 15 APRIL . 5:30PM  
117 MURRUMBEENA ROAD  
MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

Come and hear from five men sharing fifteen minute stories and how their faith continues to shape their lives.



# Messy has a ball at Chelsea

CROSSLIGHT came to visit Chelsea Uniting Church on 18 March for our Messy Church Easter celebration, *writes Rev Claire Dawe*. Messy Church has attracted baptism families, playgroup members and youth group as well as church members. An hour of activities, science experiments and games is followed by a time of celebration in church and then a meal.

It's not a church or children's programme but a church plant or emerging congregation – as such, it takes a while to grow, but we're getting there!

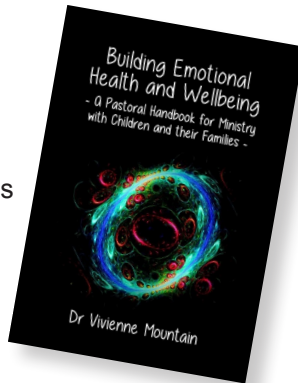
Families were interviewed on video by Crosslight explaining why they have made Messy their church and what they like about it. The afternoon finished with chocolate, naturally.



## New booklet sheds light and insight on Safe Church policies

FROM the two hats of Christian faith and psychological understanding this handbook, by Vivienne Mountain, joins with other voices seeking to clarify, highlight and practise Safe Church policy. Small and easy-to-read, it is a clear and useful resource for those in many forms of ministry: the pastor, minister, child and family worker, Sunday School teacher, pastoral care worker, counselor or chaplain. It synthesizes two frameworks, combining two sets of language, from the insights of both theology and psychology, thus uniting Christian tradition with contemporary understanding.

5000 copies of this booklet are now being distributed through various churches and para-church organizations. This first print run has been funded through donations and is being distributed free of charge. A second printing is anticipated when funding becomes available. Distribution is taking place through the office of Chris Barnett of the Centre for Theology and Mission, Parkville ([chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au)). Vivienne Mountain [PhD, MA (Theology), MA (Creative Arts Therapy), MA (Philosophy of Religion), B.Th., B.Ed.] is a member of St Leonard's Uniting Church. **by Wendy Adams**



St Marks Uniting Church, Mornington

Playgroup Fundraiser

Cnr Barkly St and Warterloo Place,

Enter via door in rear carpark.

Sunday April 8th

4pm - 6pm

**CLOTHES SWAP!**

\$15 entrance fee



Swap your preloved clothes and create a new wardrobe.

Bring 5 items - take 5 items

Bring 10 items - take 10 items

Donations Welcome

## Out of the mouths of babes...

CORNISH College has responded to the call for comments on Australia's draft revised biodiversity conservation strategy - with the College's youngest and oldest students contributing.

A four year old student made

this profound response to the question *Why is Nature*

*important?*: "The Earth will turn grey if we don't look after it and everyone will die, even the kids and the animals like the cats."

Year 12 students said: "Nature is important because it is the best example of peace, cooperation and balance in the world. It is stronger and more successful than any other concept on Earth and what enables us to live". College Principal, Vicki Steer says: "We decided to work on this submission throughout the first term to live by our College vision. The preparation of this submission has provided an authentic learning experience for our students. Their



education in and about nature is a crucial part of their growth as citizens who will make a positive difference

in contributing to a sustainable future. As leading educational thinkers in regards to educating for a sustainable future we believe our College provides an important case study for others to learn how to authentically embed sustainability into all aspects of education."

Parents have also contributed to the College's submission, which was submitted on 16 March, making it a real college community effort. The College has created a page on its website where the submission can be found along with supporting multi-media material. This page can be accessed at [www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/sustainability](http://www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/sustainability).

## The power of song

ST John's Mt Waverley UC *Church in Society* Committee is presenting its next seminar on Dementia, pictured right, with Kate Teggelove, Registered Music Therapist and Research Fellow with the University of Melbourne.

It will explore the effects of therapeutic group singing for community dwelling people with dementia and their caregivers across Victoria and Tasmania. This study is in conjunction with Uniting Agewell. Following the presentation, there will be time for people to share their church's plans on supporting those in their congregations living with Dementia and their carers. Afternoon tea will be served. All are welcome.

For more details please contact Margery Kennett 9807 4084 or [mbkennett@bigpond.com](mailto:mbkennett@bigpond.com)

Spotted on **facebook**



## Did knitters outwit our Deputy Chair?

We don't have an op shop, but at the Village Church in Mt Eliza, we have an awesome bunch of prolific knitters who turn out volumes of stuff for others in our community. We had a running Facebook joke, that if they knitted this I would wear it in church. So today I was presented with it, and in the coming weeks (maybe not this one) it will make an appearance. It even has growing room!!



## Dementia Workshop Remini-Sing St John's Uniting Church 37 Virginia St Mt Waverley

1.30pm to 3.00pm on Friday April 27th

Remini-Sing is a large Randomised Control Trial (RCT) exploring the effects of therapeutic group singing for community dwelling people with dementia and their caregivers across Victoria and Tasmania.

Kate Teggelove (RMT) is a Registered Music Therapist and Research Fellow with the University of Melbourne, currently responsible for management of the Study. She will share outcomes of research to date and share ideas for using music to support the wellbeing of people living with dementia, with particular reference to its use for connection and memory. Following Kate's presentation and discussion, we will continue a discussion on how our church congregations can provide pastoral care for people with dementia and their carers.

Please advise Margery Kennett 9807 4084, [mbkennett@bigpond.com](mailto:mbkennett@bigpond.com) of your intention to attend.  
A gold coin donation would be appreciated.



Breaking bread together... an ecumenical Maundy Thursday Seder meal was held at the Mornington & Mount Martha Anglican Church Church to round off Lent events.

## Bible studies draw Christians closer

WE enjoyed some wonderful sharings over Lent with several week day groups coming together in Mornington for Bible Studies, *writes David Price*. All the meetings were held in private homes, with a mix of lay and ordained leadership. Two of the groups sustained 10 - 12 members each session and we used Karl Faase's book "Jesus the Game Changer" - but moved from the set questions pretty often. The DVD input each week was appreciated and led to the ability to trust each other with life stories, as exemplified in the DVDs. One group, led by Pastor Hannah Dungan had a good range of ages and diversity, another had a delightful ecumenical blend of denominational background, including Anglican, UCA and Quakers Hugh and Mary Winstance, *pictured below*. We used lots of symbols to enhance our sharing, including a red onion, a candle, acorns and even an unpeeled garlic! Suppers each session were humungous, convivial and usually went for an hour! Two of the groups plan to continue after Easter to at least finish the DVD topics. We liked the authentic stories and media "savvy" presentations. Groups are great and help us grow - especially at Easter. ...



### Quote

"I think God has a sense of humour, and the way my lessons come from God is very funny. I have to laugh at myself even if it's a tough lesson."

Yvette Nicole Brown



of the month

## SacredEdge

*Spirituality in Diversity*

Stories, Music, Art  
Indigenous Refugee LGBTI Sustainability



Peter Waples Crow  
Ngarigo Man  
Queer Artist

Namila Benson  
Race and  
Identity

Ro Allen  
Commissioner  
Gender & Sexuality

Para Paheer  
Author,  
Sri Lankan  
Refugee

Alex Sangster  
Actor, Activist,  
Spirituality

Glimpse the Gift of Diversity  
May 4-6 2018

Registrations online at:

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



Enquiries: Jan 5258 2854  
[unitingqueenscliff@inet.net.au](mailto:unitingqueenscliff@inet.net.au)  
[www.facebook.com/sacrededgefestival](https://www.facebook.com/sacrededgefestival)



Regenerating Church  
PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP WEST



## CHORAL CONCERT

Supporting the  
Homeless and Disadvantaged

**SUNDAY 29 APRIL 3 TO 5 PM**

ST JOHN'S UNITING CHURCH  
37 VIRGINIA STREET MT WAVERLEY

TWO OUTSTANDING CHOIRS

**VOICES OF FRANKSTON**

**CONCHORD**



Tickets \$20: Includes afternoon tea  
Kathy 9807 8449, Jim 9807 8732

Sponsored by the Uniting Churches of Mt Waverley and Chadstone

# Thinking Clearly About Family Ministry – Where to Start?



A USEFUL resource site for family ministry has published a paper that puts God at the centre of family communities. Aim Lower Journal says: “God created and designed us to live in a community called family but we live in a world filled with broken hearts and broken homes. Globally we are confronted by the struggles and the results of fragile, hurting families ... and we are worried.”

This paper is the beginning of a response which aims to look afresh at the heart of God, and His Word, to seek His direction for the rebuilding of *family communities*. As complex as families are, they are critical for the functioning of society and essential for the nurture of the next generation....

Lord God, our Father, we thank you for all the light you give us and your loving help in outward things. We ask for your light and constant guidance for the path we must follow.



Grant that what is of heaven may be revealed on earth, that we may rejoice in the good and beautiful things you give to all people. Father, reveal what is of heaven and free people from sin and darkness to recognize your glory. Strengthen our hope for this goal and work in the hearts of all people, so your glory may be proclaimed to all. **Amen.**

“...The extended family of God (the faith community) has a vital role in empowering households to be salt and light in the world.”

To read the rest of the paper visit: <http://www.aimlowerjournal.com/thinking-clearly-about-family-ministry-where-to-start/>

For more information and resources on family ministry contact Chris Barnett, Children & Families, Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres Parkville 3052

t (03) 9340 8806 | f (03) 9340 8805

e [Chris.Barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:Chris.Barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au)



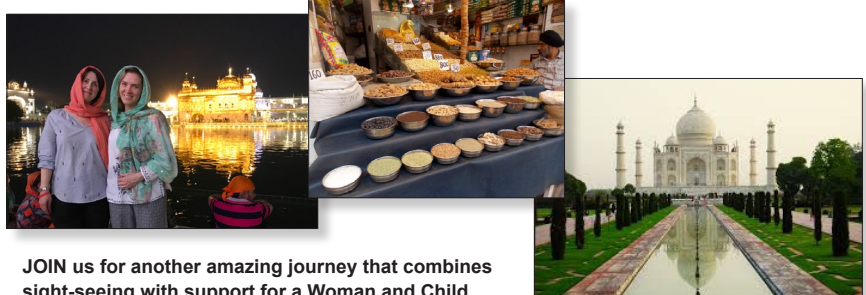
**Want to understand how the budget affects you and your church?** UCA Funds has opened up registrations for their budget breakfast recently, after selling out a week before the event last year, so they recommend registering as soon as possible.



Treasurers, board and committee members attend to understand how the budget might impact congregations and charities. Register at [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/not-for-profit-post-budget-breakfast-registration-22081602668](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/not-for-profit-post-budget-breakfast-registration-22081602668) Details also from Stephanie Duthie (03) 9251 5458.



## Experience Incredible India



**JOIN us for another amazing journey that combines sight-seeing with support for a Woman and Child Mobile Health Clinics program in North India (JBK.)**

This 13-day tour takes in majestic New Delhi, golden Amritsar, bejewelled Agra and spiritual Dharamsala Visiting some breathtaking heritage and natural wonder sites - including the Taj Mahal and Golden Temple - we'll also re-connect with the project organisers and the families we help. You'll also experience responsible travel excursions and meet with Indian people to enable the small travel group (8-12) to explore and reflect on the diversity of Indian culture. Staying in comfortable, authentic, ethical hotels, and travelling in comfort, all needs and abilities are catered for without losing a true immersion in Indian life.

Cost: \$3,980 which includes flights, accommodation, transport, sight-seeing entry fees and most meals. A fundraised donation of \$500+ to the JBK project is also encouraged.

Contact us for the full itinerary and pricing (additional travel plans, before or after, can be accommodated) on the phone or e-mail below.

**Dates - Thursday, September 06 - Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

Contact:  
Helen on  
0434 412104 or  
e-mail:  
[helen.beeby@gmail.com](mailto:helen.beeby@gmail.com)



In association with  
  
Creative Journeys



# Packing up for troubled kids bags

FOR many years the Friendship group at Wheelers Hill Uniting Church has been putting together backpacks with school supplies that are sent to the Pacific Islands by the Mission Liaison Group.

The group initially began doing two backpacks – one for a girl, one for a boy.

Four years ago we invited the congregation to participate in this project, and the involvement and was overwhelming.

The first year we did 16 backpacks, the next year 20 backpacks and the last two years it has been 28!

The support for the backpack program from our small congregation is a great outreach to others less fortunate than ourselves and helps us to look outside our own “back yard.”



Clockwise from left: Piles of goods donated by church folk, members sort the stationery items, backpacks loaded



ready for delivery

Planning Ahead Information Sessions

## Understanding Dementia

**FREE community information sessions to help you make informed decisions**

Uniting AgeWell understands how difficult it is when a partner, family member or friend develops dementia and aims to help people manage it.

Dementia is a collection of symptoms caused by disorders affecting the brain, most prevalent in older people.

Dementia Australia and Uniting AgeWell Palliative Care Specialist Kerry Whitlock aim to assist people to better understand dementia. Learn how to recognise the signs, what support is available to help manage the condition, and how to make a positive difference to the life of a person with dementia.

**Tuesday, 10 April**  
2pm – 4pm

Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community

1312 Heatherton Road  
Noble Park 3174

Light refreshments provided

☎ 9554 0700

👉 [unitingagewell.org/planning](http://unitingagewell.org/planning)



Next month: *The Journey into Aged Care*  
Tuesday 8 May, 2pm – 4pm



**Witness**  
and *Resistance*

Images from the Book of Revelation  
for a world in crisis



Led by  
**Rev Robyn Whitaker**



*How imagery of the strange  
world of the Apocalypse  
might speak in our world*

Robyn Whitaker is the Bromby Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies and Academic Dean of Trinity College Theological School. She explored the imagery of the Book of Revelation as part of her Doctoral Thesis

**Wednesday 4 May 2018**

7:30 till 9:00pm in the Parish Centre

following a light dinner at 6:30pm

Hampton Uniting Church 17 Service Street, Hampton VIC 3188

A joint presentation with Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hampton

\$15 / \$10 concession includes dinner – for catering, prior advice is helpful. (\$10 / \$7 session only)

Enquiries: Tim Angus 0400 383 628

Email: [dayspringcontact@hotmail.com](mailto:dayspringcontact@hotmail.com)

# Momentum grows for our development work



## Making our churches safer places

Upcoming Safe Church Training sessions:

- Tuesday 10 April at 9.30am at Rosebud (register at [clairedawe@hotmail.com](mailto:clairedawe@hotmail.com))
- Chadstone (St Mark's Congregation) on Saturday 14 April at 2 pm. Attendees need to register at [janice.heely@bigpond.com](mailto:janice.heely@bigpond.com)
- To be confirmed: Tuesday 24 April from 12 noon until 3pm at Mt Waverley UC (High Street Rd. The church is on the cnr of High Street Rd and Stewart St). Register at [neilwhitt@optusnet.net.au](mailto:neilwhitt@optusnet.net.au)

February and March have been a busy time for the 'Cultivating a new future' steering committee.

Committee members have run regional information sessions, training the trainers, who are tasked with facilitating a conversation with their Church Council on the 3 zone model.

Across this time, there has also been focus groups, further survey work and more key stakeholder conversations. The steering committee were

heartened by the turn out to the regional gatherings and the level of engagement and questions. Many, many church councils across the Presbytery have now engaged in conversations about how they see the life of their church communities, in relation to the 3 zone model.

Remembering that there is no right answer, it just is what it is, they

have discussed their church community's life cycle and begun the journey of thinking where too from here. The surveys have steadily come in through the month of March, and we know one or 2 churches, have promised them in the days after Easter. Minister's too have been creatively responding to their surveys, both on how they see their congregations

in relation to the 3 zone model, and the professional development and leadership survey. Across the month of April, the report

for stage 1 will be prepared for the presbytery. This will be produced by our consultant, Phil McCredden, in conjunction with the steering committee. This report will be presented to the Presbytery at a special presbytery meeting in May. More details for this will come soon. This report will provide some vital areas and issues that

we need to work on as a presbytery. In stage 2 we'll have an opportunity to reflect on the areas and issues, and discern together the next steps.

This is an exciting time for the Presbytery of Port Phillip East as we begin to focus ourselves on the future of the Uniting Church in the South Eastern suburbs of Melbourne, and how together, congregations, ministers and all expressions of the Uniting Church, we can work more collaboratively and creatively together.

If you have ANY questions, please contact Cameron on [cameronmcadam@hotmail.com](mailto:cameronmcadam@hotmail.com) 9787 1683, 0425 774 780.

**CULTIVATING a New Future is a cultural change process the Presbytery of Port Phillip East is undergoing to navigate the challenges we face as a presbytery in the changing reality of the church and community and the synod's Major Strategic Review**



## Last call for bursary opportunity



### JOAN STOTT UCAF BURSARY

**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"
- pay for additional courses or resources

**Apply now for a Joan Stott Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Bursary for study in 2019**

**Contact:**

**Lencie Harding for more information and an application form E:**  
[lencie.harding@gmail.com](mailto:lencie.harding@gmail.com)  
**Applications closing date is Thursday 31st May**

## Presbytery in Council meeting dates

- 18 April
- 20 June
- 15 August
- 17 October
- 12 December

Meetings will be held at Noble Park Uniting Church, jct of Joy Parade and Allan Street and will commence at 7.30pm.

All ministers and presbytery reps are asked to attend regularly. Thank you.



*If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to [newsbeat@ucappp.org](mailto:newsbeat@ucappp.org)*



*The 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.*

**Visit the Presbytery website at [www.ucappp.org](http://www.ucappp.org) and [www.facebook.com/ucappp.org](https://www.facebook.com/ucappp.org) for news, events and more....**