

Newsbeat

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE

DECEMBER HEADLINES

FUND RAISING FOR
FRONTIER SERVICES
OVER COFFEE

REGENERATIONAL
RESOURCE BY REV
CLAIRE DAWE

A DAY FILLED WITH
JOY, FUN & LAUGHTER
AT ST DAVID'S
PARKDALE

CELEBRATING
40 YEARS OF MT
WAVERLEY'S PIPE
ORGAN

WORKING TOGETHER
AT WESTERN PORT
PARISH UC

MULTICULTURAL
YOUTH RALLY

KIDS HOPE

THE SYNOD SCOOP



Port Phillip East Presbytery WHAT'S HAPPENING

An insight into what congregations,
schools & members are doing

FRONTIER SERVICES FUND RAISING OVER ONE YEAR



*Do you know what Frontier Services are?
Well let me tell you...*

They are an agency of the Uniting Church in Australia who provide bush chaplains and outback links for those in remote communities. They do what they do for the love of helping people. Frontier Services is about making life connections between people. A telephone call. A coffee and a chat. A friendly face. A listening ear. A helping hand. It's called mateship. And it happens on an emotional, a physical, and a spiritual level. Congregations within the UCA can support this arm of the Uniting Church body with donations and praying for the work they do.

FRONTIER SERVICES Contact details

Website - frontierservices.org

Postal Address- PO Box 3424, Parramatta NSW

Office Address - 53 / 2 O'Connell Street, Parramatta
NSW 2150

Email: fsfundraising@frontierservices.org

Telephone - 1300 787 247

Beaumaris Uniting Church has supported Frontier Services for many years by organising fund raising activities including our annual fete, and several 'Tex 'n Daisy' musical concerts.

Sadly, COVID stopped these kinds of efforts, but this year we have run a series of 'Cake 'n Biscuits Bake' sales during coffee time after the service. In May we raised \$200, August \$160, September \$260 and November \$336 for a 2023 total of \$995.

The stalls represent a simple way of fund raising, but is hugely significant in the way so many members of the Beaumaris UC congregation contributed to the offerings of biscuits and yummy cakes to raise the best part of \$1000 over the year.

Nothing like a good cake and biscuit to bring a congregation together.

Nick Toovey, Beaumaris Uniting Church Council Chair



QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

“Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.” – C.S. Lewis

REGENERATIONAL RESOURCE

For many years, Cornish College chaplain, Rev Claire Dawe, has dreamed of writing a book on intergenerational ministry. That dream has now come true!

Dennis Freeman, Cornish College’s Community Relations Director, reports on the new resource “Regenerational: Introducing Churches to Intergenerational Ministry.”

For the last two years, the Cornish College Chaplain, Rev Claire Dawe, has been working with a small team from Australia and the United Kingdom on a passion project to write a new book for churches and faith communities to encourage intergenerational ministry.

This is a passion of Claire’s as she, along with the other team members and many people of faith around the world, believe that the strength of communities is when all gather regardless of age or any other artificial divider.

All ages can offer insights and can mentor and support others. As communities, we need to relearn the benefits of intergenerational connections, and this includes faith communities.

Called **Regenerational**, the book is a free, practical, downloadable resource which is also available in print through Mediacom, for a small fee.

It includes four complete services anyone can run, full details to prepare a team and the services, a review framework, and coaching tips with further information.

Each service has a summary order of service, and details of preparation required for the full service.

In addition, choices of activities are provided to enable local contextualisation. Whilst the services are structured with a particular liturgical format in mind, they can be readily adapted for a specific context, as required.

For more information or to download the resource, visit the InterGen website intergen.org.au/regenerational/



A DAY FILLED WITH FUN, LAUGHTER & JOY

St David's Parkdale UC celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Sunday 29 Oct, which was a great day filled with fun, laughter and joy.

It was a fabulous celebration with 220 people in attendance. The day commenced with worship based around our chosen theme of 'Let Your Light Shine'.

Voices were raised in praise as they accompanied our worship band with a mix of contemporary songs and traditional hymns. It was a rousing service of intergenerational worship and the moderator Rev David Fotheringham embraced our theme in his message.

Following the service, lunch and fellowship were the order of the day. As well as our regular attendees, we were joined by local dignitaries, Presbytery representatives, former ministers, neighbours and many members from years gone by. The constant hum of people catching up with one another filled the hall and it was a delight to see so many renewing acquaintances and relishing the day.



St David's Parkdale congregation celebrating 100 years.

St David's Parkdale Uniting Church began life as Parkdale Methodist Church on November 4, 1923, initially meeting in a hall on a neighbouring corner block. The existing church was completed in 1926 and has undergone a number of modifications since.

After union in 1977, its history became intertwined with the Mordialloc Methodist Church and the North Mordialloc Presbyterian Church. With the subsequent closures of these two churches, the church in Parkers Road became known as St David's Parkdale Uniting Church and continues to shine within Parkdale and the surrounding communities.

We look forward to serving our Lord God and the local community for many years to come.

Janienne Woodbridge
St David's Parkdale Uniting Church

Find more details please go visit their website at <https://www.parkdaleuniting.com.au/>

PIPE ORGAN ON THE MOVE AFTER 40 YEARS

Over the years the pipe organ at Mt Waverley has been a blessing to several congregations since it was built in 1961. Cliff Harding tells the story of the organ, and how it is now time for it to be a blessing for another congregation.

In 1983 the South Essendon Uniting Church donated their pipe organ to the then High Street Road Uniting Church, Mount Waverley. The organ had been made in 1961 by English organ builders JW Walker & Sons, as one of their several "off-the-shelf" models – low cost yet versatile, with 2 full-size manuals and pedals plus a variety of stops. It was originally donated to the South Essendon Methodist Church by the Gilbertson family. In 1982 the church was sold to the Salvation Army and the congregation moved over the road to St Johns UC. The Salvation Army did not require the organ.

Geoff Willis (a former organist at St Johns and occasionally at South Essendon) learnt of its availability late in 1982 and, aware of its potential, arranged for the organ to be on permanent loan to the church for as long as it remains a place of worship.

In early 1983, with individual donations and pledges to cover the anticipated costs, work began.

The organ was transported in bits and pieces in a convoy of cars and trailers. The platform on which the three hundred pipes sit was designed by Howard Fried, and the front display ("dummy") pipes were constructed to scale by Novar Birrell, using PVC and painted with real gold-leaf donated by Balwyn UC. Indistinguishable from the real thing! The instrument was re-dedicated in August 1983, with members of the Gilbertson family present.

It has been described by organ aficionados as one of the best of its kind in Melbourne.

Our congregation recently celebrated 40 years since the arrival of the organ, and has experienced much musical and worshipful joy over the years from having such a fine organ.

The High Street Road Uniting Church congregation has recently joined with St John's Uniting Church in Mount Waverley Village, which is currently undergoing renovations. The new congregation is called Mount Waverley Uniting Church, and it is expected that the move will take place by mid next year.

Options for a future home for the organ are being considered in conjunction with St John's Essendon. The organ itself is free, but any new owner would be required to cover the transport and installation costs.

Any expressions of interest should be directed initially to Mount Waverley Uniting Church at office@mountwaverleyunitingchurch.org.au or ring Cliff on 0418 177 018.



WORKING TOGETHER AT WESTERN PORT PARISH

When changes occur, some people take the challenges very hard. Let's take a look into how three congregations have made a parish work together.

The Western Port UC Parish embraces Balnarring, Crib Point and Hastings congregations, all nestled along the western side of Western Port where it is world renowned for its conservation areas.

Over the years, quiet coastal villages have flourished into vibrant and bustling communities whilst experiencing enduring tourism potential especially during the holiday periods. Follow the coastline to discover pristine beaches, Cerberus Naval Base, a marine terminal, precious wetlands, some industrial complexes, and recreational fishing. Inland, there is a range of agricultural pursuits such as farming, orchards, grazing, vineyards, and equine centres amongst the gently rolling hills of the Mornington Peninsula. This is a wonderful part of God's creation which we are fortunate to experience.

We are blessed to have a full-time ordained minister in the Rev. Nigel McBrien who conducts weekly services at Crib Point and alternates services between Balnarring and Hastings. In addition, Nigel provides resources for elder led services and sets up Zoom service broadcasts. Although retired, Rev. Wal Baker conducts two services per month, one each at Balnarring and Hastings. Their caring devotion to the Western Port Parish is greatly appreciated. Within the Parish there is a combination of inter-church missional and support activities. On the fifth Sunday of the month, when one occurs, the three churches combine to conduct a Parish service which celebrates a missional activity that the Parish supports. Our enormously successful Op Shop at Crib Point is well supported by church and community volunteers. Profits are distributed 60% for Parish funding and 40% for Uniting Church and humanitarian appeals and local community projects. The Op Shop actively supports the Mission Liaison Group at Keysborough which accepts a range of items for the Pacific Islands which would otherwise go to landfill. There is a Parish – inter-denominational Easter connection with the Balnarring UC and Anglicans at the Balnarring Beach dawn service and Hastings churches Stations of the Cross. The Parish churches extensively supports the Western Port Community Centre with food and toys going to disadvantaged families.

Usually on the first Saturday in January, the Parish conducts a Sausage Sizzle at Hastings Bunnings in aid of Frontier Services' Outback Links.

The Balnarring congregation recently completed a renovation of its 1936 building and added a new hall, modern kitchen, toilets, and storeroom. It accommodates community groups and annually hosts Scripture Union's Family Beach Mission when thirty to forty leaders camp on-site. Using the Balnarring Beach Robertson Reserve, they conduct a free holiday family program of bible stories, games, songs, drama, and craft activities. The team aims to share the wonderful news of Jesus Christ, what He has done for them and why the Team has welcomed Him into their lives. Balnarring has also hosted two Presbytery Retreats recently. The church is excited about the 2024 commitment of a Western Port singing group to use our facilities. Our new monthly October to April community market is making progress as it enables church and community connections.

The Crib Point congregation generously hosts the monthly Parish Op Shop Committee of Management meetings. The Thursday Maundy service commences our Parish Easter celebrations. Weekly services bring together a faithful few who look after each other in times of need. Annually, the congregation arranges a substantial food bank mid-year and a collection of toys and food, both collections given to the Western Port Community Support Centre.

The Hastings congregation actively engages in church and community events. It accommodates the Parish office and meetings, and weekly services. Notable functions include the April Western Port Craft Expo which is a wonderful celebration of the best craftwork on the Peninsula. There is a wide range of exciting and participative crafty displays and activities that occupy people all day long. Since 2017 each month, church and community ladies have been sewing simple cotton dresses for an American-based church charity called Dress-a-Girl that distributes them to young girls living in poverty in Third World countries. The group has received donations of fabric, zips, lace, trims, bias binding, threads, buttons, along with a sewing machine and an overlocker.

The Western Port Parish congregations, whilst small in numbers, seeks to know and serve God, live as Christ-like disciples in our community, share faith, love, hope and resources with people, promote respect, compassion, and justice for humanity, and secure a sustainable environment for the growth and enjoyment of all creation through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that enables us to be creative and innovative.





M U L T I C U L T U R A L

YOUTH RALLY

Canterbury Uniting

15A BALWYN ROAD, CANTERBURY

SUNDAY
DECEMBER

10

AT 6:00PM

COME GATHER FROM ACROSS
OUR CHURCHES FOR AN A
EVENING OF WORSHIP,
FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY.

MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PASTOR VIRGINIA:
0484 189 318 OR VIRGINIA.LAVAKI@VICTAS.UCA.ORG.AU



NATIVITY PHOTO OP AT FRANKSTON FESTIVAL



For over a decade Uniting by the Bay has been responsible for setting up the Nativity Photo Area at the Festival of Lights in Frankston. This year on 25 November, we had families come up to us and saying that they've been coming every year for all those years..

By the night's end, over 300 people, including the three wise boys above, had put on costumes and taken pictures reenacting the first Christmas.

By Rev Sam Joo & Sarah Manase

MENTORING KIDS INTO HOPE

Every week for over 15 years, primary school children across Australia have been visited by caring mentors from a local church through the Kids Hope program.

Kids Hope is Australia's largest early intervention, school-based mentoring program for children experiencing vulnerability – almost 2000 children across 250 schools.

The model is simple. One Child. One Mentor. One Hour a week. Initiated by World Vision, Kids Hope is now an independent charity. For more details see the story on the Port Phillip East Presbytery website: ucappep.org/kids-hope-changing-childrenslives



THANK YOU FOR SHARING WITH US

Thank you to all those who have participated and shared your story with Port Philip East Presbytery in Newsbeat.

As we all continue to share what is happening in and around our local communities, we proactively take part in building up the body of Christ. Let's continue the good work. Stories of success, and also the challenges that you and your congregation face, play an inspiring role in our monthly Newsbeat.

So we encourage you to get in contact with Newsbeat editor Sarah Manase and share something for the next year's Newsbeat editions. We aim to have Newsbeat out in the first week of every month.

It's helpful for us to receive all text and photography by the 21st of every month.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sarah Manase, Presbytery Communications Officer

comms-officer@ucappep.org

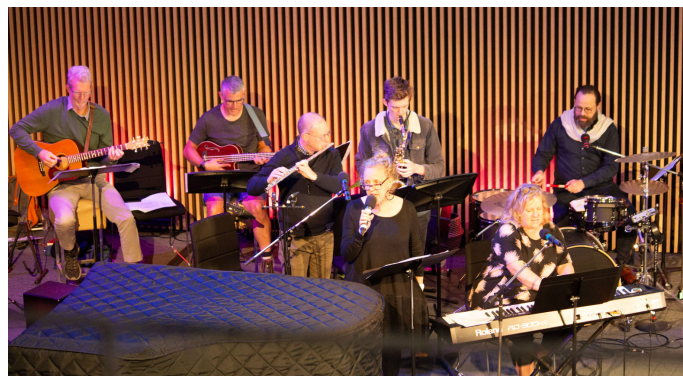


PHOTO GALLERY 2023 VIC/TAS SYNOD MEETING

Thanks to Duncan Macleod for recording memorable moments from Synod 2023.



Moderator Rev David Fotheringham with one of this chaplains, Rev Jieson Park.



Worship Committee performing during the Opening Worship Service on Saturday morning, 18 November



Pilgrim Theological College acting Head of School, Rev Robyn Whitaker, lead Bible studies over the four days.



Indigenous Christian leader, writer, educator and poet Brooke Prentis was a guest preacher at Synod.



Alison Overeem and Ayla Williams from Congress, Tasmania, presented devotions on Day 4.



Andrew Johnson, project lead, presented Act2 for discussion



**WE BELONG
TO THE DAY**
1 Thessalonians 5:8

Synod
2023

INTRODUCING MODERATOR-ELECT REV SALESI FAUPULA

In a break with recent tradition, the Moderator-elect Nominating Committee put only one name forward for the position at Synod 2023. Sue Withers reported that their nominee possessed all the necessary attributes required by a Moderator. This was confirmed when the Synod agreed by consensus that Rev Salesi Taupula would become moderator of VicTas Synod from mid-2025.

Salesi now assumes the role of Moderator-elect until he takes over from David Fotheringham as Moderator in eighteen months time..

In an article by Crosslight, Salesi talked about the sense of duty he felt to be available to serve God. . "The label of L plates we were given at the time of our ordination continues to sit well with me years later because it's a humbling reminder that as Christians we remain learners on this journey, called forth to listen to one another, act together and bear witness to Christ in the world."

Born in Tonga but raised in the Northern Territory and Sydney, Salesi said his multicultural background would inform much of what he brings to the role of Moderator from 2025-28.

"I have worked in multicultural ministry and that is a passion of mine, because of my own sense of journey," he said.

REFLECTION ON SYNOD FROM PASTOR BELINDA CLEAR

The theme of Synod 2023 was "We belong to the day", carrying the reminder that as followers of Christ, we are people of the day.

The meeting was full of places and proposals to ponder what it means to be people of the day, seeking to be people of light in the world; and there was a vibe of hope around Box Hill Town Hall over the 4 days.

I was encouraged in my working group when we discussed Act 2 and Faithful Futures by the appetite for change expressed by people and the love for the Uniting Church that so many people hold.

As well as the business stuff, Synod was a great time of catching up with people, sharing stories and ideas together; a reminder of all the great things that are happening across our church.





THE SYNOD SCOOP

Want to know more about what is happening across VicTas Synod? This month we look at LGBTQA Care, find out who the next Associate General Secretary is, along with eLM's Mental Health Kit to help congregations in caring for people with mental health issues.

LGBTQA CARE



The University of Divinity and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission will hold a workshop on LGBTQA pastoral care in Box Hill on December 1.

[Click here to register.](#)

DOWNLOADABLE MENTAL HEALTH KIT

The 2023 edition of the Synod's mental health kit is out now, featuring personal perspectives, worship resources, and checklists to help congregations respond to people with mental health issues.

[Download Booklet here.](#)



NEXT ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY



The Synod Standing Committee has announced that Rev Sharon Hollis will be the next Associate General Secretary, replacing Isabel Thomas Dobson. Sharon, the current National Assembly President and former Moderator of Victoria and Tasmania, will start in the role in August next year.

DIARY DATES

Creative Spiritual Practice – Endeavour Hills UC

Thursdays 7-9pm

Hosting Cothumos spiritual art journalling

Further info cothumos@gmail.com

Mission Meals Project

Thursdays 5.30 - 7pm

St Kilda South Port, 325 Dorcas St, Sth Melb.

Contact Rev Alex Sangster 0411 292 273

Simple Body - Meditation Videos

Mindfulness meditation by Rev. John Tansey

four times a week on [YouTube](#)

Sunday 3rd December

St Leonards Brighton Quiet Christmas 7.30pm

Sunday 10th December

Multicultural Youth Rally at 6pm at

Canterbury Balwyn Rd Uniting Church

Beaumaris UC Empty Christmas Tree 9.30am

Saturday 16th December

Heatherton Dingley UC - Dog Church

Christmas Party at 10am

Sunday 17th December

St John's Elsternwick UC - Christmas Carols by
Candelight at 6pm

The Village Church, Mt Eliza - sharing joy at
10am

Heatherton Dingley UC - Christmas Carols at
7.30pm

Uniting By the Bay- International Carols at
9.30am

St John's Elsternwick - Christmas carols service

at 7pm

Seaford UC - Christmas carols service at
9.30am

Sunday 24th December

Cranbourne UC - Christmas Carols at 6pm

Beaumaris UC- Carols at 9.30am

Pakenham - Christmas Eve Carols at

Pakenham Upper Community Church Hall
7.30pm. Everyone is invited

Uniting By the Bay Service at 9.30am and a
Carols Family Service at 7pm

Mondy 25th December (Christmas Service)

Uniting By the Bay Christmas Service 9am

Beaumaris UC- Nativity Readings at 9.30am

St John's Elsternwick at 9:30am

Somers Camp.

1- 5th July 2024 (More details to come)

CASEY CARDINIA EMAIL UPDATE

The Casey Cardinia Regional Mission project is taking shape. If you are interested in keeping up to date with the latest news on the Casey Cardinia Regional Project, subscribe to our email list using the QR code or [clicking on this link.](#) For further details, contact Rev Robin Yang. or Rev Ji Zhang



Uniting in Prayer December

Each week congregations are encouraged to include their neighbours in their prayers. The Presbytery's prayer calendar covers congregations, schools and agencies of the Uniting Church in our Presbytery and Synod. You can check the calendar on the Presbytery website.

03 December Toorak congregation - Rev Peter Whitaker (Supply), Chair Jenny Stewardson

10 December Armadale Congregation- Rev Fiona Winn, Chair Janet Atkinson

17 December Wheelers Hill Congregation - Rev Paulo Kwajakwan (Supply), Chair Jennifer Williamson

24 December Western Port congregation - Rev (Deacon) Nigel McBrien, Chair Margaret Baker

31 December VCC Emergency Services Chaplains



ADVENT PRAYER

By Rev Fiona Winn

*This Advent as
we prepare to
celebrate Your
glory,
we remember
and believe:
to occupied
lands - Christ
will come;
to violent
hearts - Christ
will come;
to distraught
lives - Christ
will come;
to displaced peoples
- Christ will come;
to those near and
far - Christ will
come;
for this world and
for us all - Christ
will come.
Come Lord Jesus,
come.
Amen*



Visit the Port Phillip East Presbytery office
at 1 Allan St, Noble Park.



03 9558 4710



www.facebook.com/ucappep.org



www.ucappep.org



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 (currently on leave)