

# Newsbeat

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



MARCH 2024 ISSUE

## MARCH HEADLINES

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PARK UNITING PLACE

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MANASE





# Port Phillip East Presbytery

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

An insight into what congregations,  
schools & members are doing

### A DAY AT HAMPTON PARK UNITING PLACE

*My husband, Pastor Junior Manase and myself spent the day at Uniting Place (Hampton Park UCA) exploring their busy Thursday routine with a food bank, community garden, English tutoring classes, playgroup and much more.*

Last month we were invited by Rev Ineke Gyles, to visit and explore Hampton Park Uniting Church.

I can honestly say it was a mind blowing experience! To see this congregation so busy, with all their programs they run - I wish I could see other congregations.

We were welcomed by an organisation called, Orange Sky. I spoke with the three ladies that volunteer their time weekly and asked them what they do.

One lady said, "We have a simple formula; we provide a platform for every day Australians to connect through a regular laundry and shower service. The focus is on creating a safe, positive and supportive environment for people who are too often ignored or who feel disconnected from the community." These volunteers are not social workers or experts on homelessness - they are empathetic listeners and great conversationalists.

I felt that I wanted to come and drop off all of my laundry!

We then saw how their food bank works. Community Outreach is a central part of their purpose at Uniting Place. All members of our community are invited to access these services; and they welcome people of all faith and cultural backgrounds. With so many volunteers, they have been able to build a good reputation with these families, especially since English is their second language.





There food pantry is open 10am- 11.45am on Thursdays during school term to obtain free grocery items to support individuals and families in need.

Hampton Park UC also offer a range of programs :-

1. their community education workers which are currently available Tuesday- Thursday to assist with referrals to access support through the more difficult times in life.

2. Children and Families Worker, Niki, facilitates a playgroup program (Fridays 10-12, during school term), They also run a Sunday faith-based program and school holiday workshops as well as providing support to families and linking with other service providers in the community.

3. Education - A beginners computer class runs each Wednesday 9.30-11am. This is run in partnership with Hampton Park Community House. They also offer basic English language classes run on Thursdays 10-11.30am.

4. Kindship Carers - Their Kindship Carers' group is currently meeting twice a school term on the weekend with a private booking at a play centre. The aim is to provide peer support to parents/carers of a child with a disability. We provide conversation, share stories and resources and facilitate mutual support.

5. Open Up a Meal - With volunteers helping in the kitchen and with their community garden, they are able to offer during the school term a free 2 course lunch. Using their fruit and veggies from the garden, this is a perfect opportunity to meet you people and make new friends.

Hampton Park UC, also known as Uniting Place, have also partnered with the following Orange Sky, Peninsula Community Legal Centre, Community Information Support Services Cranbourne, Hampton Park Library, and Hampton Park Community House to help make an even bigger difference in their community.

**By Sarah Manase**



**Pastor Niki Oostwood, Children and Families' Worker at Hampton Park Uniting Church & Community Garden with Sarah Manase, Communications Officer of Port Phillip East Presbytery**



**Freshly picked veggies from community garden**



**Hampton Park UC Community Garden**



**Working Bee at Hampton Park UC**



## THANKFULNESS



Last October, Anneke Oppewal and David Higham organised a retreat at the Balnarring Uniting Church for our Presbytery ministry agents. It was a great day, and I was very happy that they invited me to attend. The bit that I remember well is the lunchtime conversation that I had with Belinda Clear and Leticia Wishart. Belinda is the ministry agent at the Sandringham Uniting Church and Leticia is the Youth Engagement Lead at The Village Church Mt Eliza. They both explained to me how they use their creativity in their ministry and in their times of relaxation. I went away very thankful that we have people like Belinda and Leticia serving the Church in our Presbytery.

As part of the conversation that day Belinda asked me about my hobbies and how I was going to fill my time when I wasn't so much involved in Presbytery affairs. I can't remember what I said, but I can remember that Belinda and Leticia thought that I had a bit of work to do!

I should have told them that my hobby is necrography; I write obituaries. I have written about 65 obituaries, eulogies, and memoirs for 60 people, published in magazines, newspapers, journals and dictionaries of biography. They are mainly obituaries of chemists that I have known and worked with and are published in Chemistry in Australia and Historical Records of Australian Science. I write obituaries of people because I am thankful for the contributions they have made to our understanding of the physical world. Scientists have a long tradition of being thankful for the work of their predecessors going back to Isaac Newton who said that he could see further than they could because he was 'standing on the shoulders of giants'.

I am thankful for all the people who have contributed to the work of the Uniting Church and its founding churches in our area going back nearly 200 years. I only wish that I knew more about their lives and work.

## WALKING THROUGH MACHU PICCHU

*Rev Cameron McAdam shares about his holiday to Peru, visiting Machu Picchu. With lots of memories made with his family, Cameron shares how 'Thankful' is he.*

In December late last year I was fortunate to travel to Peru in South America with my family and walk the Inca trail, a pilgrimage walk, over 4 days which finishes at the Inca ruins known as Machu Picchu.

Not a lot is known about the Inca Empire, other than what can be observed, as there are no remaining records or writings. The Inca empire came together in the 13th century and ended when the Spanish invaded and colonised Peru and other parts of South America in the 16th century.



Machu Picchu is often referred to as the 'Lost City of the Incas.' Built in the 15th century above the Sacred Valley, it was abandoned after the Incas fled from the Spanish, and not rediscovered until 1902. Its location and architecture are something to be marvelled, hence it became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983.





# QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

““We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is good, because it is good, if bad, because it works in us patience, humility and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country.”” – C.S. Lewis

Walking the Inca trail, a path that leads through the Andean mountains is very challenging and breathtakingly beautiful. The walk peaks on day 2 at 4200m as you walk over Dead Woman's Pass, having climbed 6km upwards after camping on the first night at 3000m. Walkers are supported by porters and guides.



All five of us shed tears at times, partly through the challenge of the walk itself, but largely through the sense of accomplishment and through the beauty of what we were seeing and experiencing. I often hear people express gratitude at the immensity and wonder and beauty of God's creation, and without doubt this was one of those moments. Large snow-capped mountains, deep valleys, rivers carving their way through, cascading waterfalls, lush vegetation, star filled night skies – and in their midst, spectacular historical ruins. You could be nothing else, but thankful for this experience.





# FAREWELL TO REV RIC HOLLAND

*In late February, a service was held to celebrate the ministry of Rev Ric Holland and to pray for him and his family as he transitions from an active ministry of some 53 years into retirement.*

On Sunday 25 th February 2024 Hampton Park UC and the Presbytery said farewell to the Rev Ric (Frederic) Holland. Ric began his ministry at Hampton Park UC in February 2019, sharing 5 years of faithful and creative ministry with the congregation.

Ric started his ministry in the UK as a Methodist minister, working amongst the poor and marginalised. After he came to the UCA he worked in the Synod Communications team, led social service programs in the CBD and spent time as the minister at St Michael's Uniting Church before coming to Hampton Park UC.

As Ric shared aspects of his ministry with those who had gathered to farewell him it was very clear that John Wesley and his work and the Methodist movement were behind Ric's calling to and living out the ministry of God. His strong concern for social justice and leadership in social service have kept Ric and all the places in which he has shared ministry looking outward to God's ministry in the world.

Ministers come in all sizes, shapes, ages, and personalities. Rev Ric Holland has inspired, encouraged, and supported many programs, people and committees. His desire for people to know the Word of God will always be with him everywhere he goes, both in the past and as he moves into a well-deserved retirement.

*Written by Rev Jay Robinson*



Rev Ric Holland received a caricature drawing of himself



Congregation Choir singing songs



Rev Jay Robinson with Rev Ric Holland



Hampton Park Congregation sharing in a meal





## Pilgrim Theological College 2024 Courses – Learning Options

**Face to face:** come to the Centre for Theology & Ministry in Parkville to be in the classroom for the whole semester

**Online-Synchronous:** be available online throughout the semester at the time indicated on the timetable.

**Online Asynchronous:** study online in your own time.

**Blended:** study with a mix of in your own time and at a time designated.

**Intensive Units:** be present in the classroom or online on the dates specified.

For timetable & information on courses visit [pilgrim.edu.au](http://pilgrim.edu.au)



## Tradition + with a Future +

### Webinar Series

**Let's make it easy for people to become involved in God's mission through our churches.**

Churches who develop an intentional culture of including and a clear pathway for new people to become involved, can expect:

- + A new sense of energy and excitement within their church.
- + New people becoming disciples.
- + Expanded missional opportunities.
- + More transformed lives.
- + Clarity on their Churches future direction.

All who register will receive a Workbook prior to each session.

This will assist to understand your congregations unique abilities and ways in which you can build on who you presently are and the things you presently do.

All sessions will be recorded and a link will be sent so that anyone who isn't able to make a particular session will be able to catch up.

Registrations close at 12pm on Thursday 7 March. Please note the Zoom details will be emailed to you on the morning of the first session.

### FREE EVENT

**Thursdays**  
7:30-9:00pm

### Dates

March 7<sup>th</sup>, March 21<sup>st</sup>,  
April 4<sup>th</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup>,  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup>

To register online, visit  
<https://events.humanitix.com/tradition-with-a-future> or scan the QR code below.



20240415/2024

# LAY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES 2024

If you want to go deeper in your understanding of the Old Testament or the Uniting Church, what about studying one of the courses offered by the Synod this session?

## Understanding the UCA. February to June 2024. Led by Mel Perkins. Cost \$40.

The first online tutorial is on 27th February, and is open to all those who register. For a summary of what is covered, and registration, follow this link: [events.humanitix.com/understanding-the-uca-guxhe2kf](https://events.humanitix.com/understanding-the-uca-guxhe2kf)

## Exploring the Old Testament. February to May 2024. Led by Linley Liersch. Cost \$50

Textbook 'Studying the Old Testament' by Rhonda Burnette-Bletsch.

The 10 online tutorials are weekly from 26th February to 6th May, and the Presbytery will also arrange small group learning tutorials on demand.

The course outline is available as a PDF on the Synod website: [victas.uca.org.au/exploring-the-old-testament](https://victas.uca.org.au/exploring-the-old-testament)

Register at: [events.humanitix.com/exploring-the-old-testament](https://events.humanitix.com/exploring-the-old-testament)

Note that *Exploring the New Testament* will be running in the second semester, and *Exploring Worship in the UCA* is scheduled for later this year. Contact Mel Perkins at eLM [mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au) or MLDC chair, Ennis Macleod at [ennisrm@gmail.com](mailto:ennisrm@gmail.com).



February 26th - May 6th, 2024



## MINISTRY & OUTREACH AT GLEN WAVERLEY

*David Fraser shares some activities and events that have been a matter for thankfulness in their congregation over the last couple of months; from a new ministry team to engagement with the Glen Waverley wider community.*



Pastor David Higham, Chair of PPE has welcomed the team at Glen Waverley UC - Rev Ian Ferguson, Pastor Di Patterson & Rev Chris Waddell.

The Glen Waverley Uniting Church community is thankful that, along with their families, the Rev Chris Waddell and the Rev Ian Ferguson, have joined us as our new Minister's of the Word. We are truly blessed to have both of them leading our faith journey over the coming years.

### **Community Outreach I**

The Glen Waverley Uniting Church has a large Chinese community on its doorstep.

On Sunday the 18th February the church was invited by the Monash Council to share in the Lunar New Year Celebrations in the Kingsway, just across the road from the church.

We give thanks for this great opportunity to inform the community about the church and its many activities. Information flyers and showbags were distributed and children were given the opportunity to colour in dragons and masks.







Heather, Vida, David, Lorraine, Iris in front of the GWUC marquee



Pastor Di Patterson looking for some bargains

**“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much” – Helen Keller.**

### ***Community Outreach 2***

On Saturday February 24th, the annual Book Sale was held at the church. Flyers had been letterboxed throughout the local community and crowds of people attended. The event raised over \$7000 for the church, as well providing an opportunity for the church community to interact with people from our local area.

We are ever thankful for the way the church community members rally around and help make such events as success.

***David Fraser***

***Church Council, Secretary Glen Waverley UC***



Local community members picking up a bargain.








## THE SYNOD SCOOP

Want to know more about what is happening across VicTas Synod? This month we look at a Lent Event which UnitingWorld have put together and the first lecture from Dr Joshua Ralston. Also eLM are also offering FREE Lent & Easter 2024 Resources and the Act2 Project from UCA Assembly are inviting people to join for a time of prayer and reflection.

### NORTHEY LECTURE 21st MARCH



**Bearing Witness:  
An Approach to Christian-  
Muslim Dialogue**

*The Biennial Hughes-Cheong Lecture*  
Presented by Dr Joshua Ralston, Reader in Christian-Muslim Relations at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh and visiting scholar at Trinity College Theological School.

Dr Joshua Ralston, from the University of Edinburgh's School of Divinity, will present the first Northey Lecture of the year on March 21, focusing on an approach to Christian-Muslim dialogue.

[Click here to register](#)

### ACT2 UNITING IN PRAYER 19th - 22nd JULY

As the Act2 Project has moved into its third phase, Uniting Church members are invited to join in a time of prayer and reflection on our past and present and what God might have in store for our future. Uniting in Prayer will run from May 19 to June 22 and is based on this year's National Assembly theme of 'Threads of Love, Weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries'.

Click here to read more  
[act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024](http://act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024)



### LENT & EASTER 2024 RESOURCES



Churches & Faith have provided links to Lent resources for group study and discipleship, and for leading worship as a gathered community or at home. They range from Lent Event resources to First Nations reflections on Rev Auntie Robyn Davis' artworks.



# Presbytery in Council & Committee Meetings 2024 Beyond Thankful

Please put the following dates into your diaries, where relevant.

The **Presbytery in Council** meetings for this year are expected to be face-to-face and/or zoom meetings.

- **Saturday March 16**
- **Wednesday June 19**
- **Saturday August 17**
- **Wednesday November 20**

At the first Presbytery in Council meeting of the year, Saturday 16 March, location to still be confirmed, we will be discussing vision & strategy for 2024, commissioning new Standing Committee members and dealing with the financial report.

The **Pastoral Relations Committee** (PRC) meets on first Wednesday of each month. Therefore, it is appreciated by the committee that any profiles, supply forms and any related matters and applications are forwarded to Anne Kim, the PRC correspondence Secretary, by the previous week of a PRC meeting.

The **Mission and Leadership Development Committee** (MLDC) meets on the final Wednesday of each month. Ennis Macleod continues in her role as Chairperson.

The **Synod Placements Committee** meets on the second Wednesday of each month. It is important to allow the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee adequate time to deal with requests and any expressions of interest from congregations and ministry agents so that they can forward them to the Placements Committee on time.

The **Property Committee** meets on the third Thursday evening every month. Application forms and inquiries need to be sent to the Property Committee Secretary, a week prior to its meeting date.

The **Standing Committee** gathers on the second Tuesday of each month.



*Port Phillip East Presbytery will farewell Sarah Manase, Communications Officer, this week, as she moves onto a new journey working full time as an Event Coordinator.*

Sarah writes "As I conclude from my role I would have served two years at Port Phillip East Presbytery and it has been an absolute pleasure.

I would like to thank everyone for their support, and guidance. I have really enjoyed my time in the Presbytery, working with a great team, capable committees, congregations and councils. I have valued the opportunity to get to know so many people in congregations, schools and agencies, and I hope the connections I have built will not be lost."

We pray for God's blessing on Sarah and her family as she as she continues her journey

*By Sarah Manase*

## JOIN VIC TAS UC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Every member of the Uniting Church is invited to join the Synod Uniting Church Historical Society, which endeavours to enrich all church members with a better understanding of our unique heritage

The Society facilitates the promoting of interest in our buildings, the contribution of our people, and the value of our theology. You can also share your story and that of your church through the Society.

The Society works closely with Synod Archives Centre at 54 Serrell Street, Malvern East, which is open Thursdays (except holidays) 9.30am to 3.00pm.

Contact UCHS Membership Officer Clive Jackson on 03 9569 9178 or download the membership form on the Synod website [victas.uca.org.au/synod-archives](https://victas.uca.org.au/synod-archives)





## DIARY DATES

### **Creative Spiritual Practice – Endeavour Hills UC**

Thursdays 7-9pm

Hosting Cothumos spiritual art journalling

Further info [cothumos@gmail.com](mailto: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](#)

### **Heatherton-Dingley Bark and Chat Morning Tea for dog enthusiasts**

Next meeting on Saturday 16 March 10am.

Ring Margaret on 0401 392 772.

### **Heatherton-Dingley Dog Church - third Saturday morning of the month February, April, June, August, October and December.**

Next meeting on Saturday 20 April 10am

### **Catch up Code of Ethics Sessions**

Contact Secretary Anne Kim for details

### **World Day of Prayer**

1 March

### **Tradition with a Future**

7 March

Click here for my details [victas.uca.org.au/event/tradition-with-a-future/](http://victas.uca.org.au/event/tradition-with-a-future/)

### **International Women's Day**

8 March

### **Harmony Week (including International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)**

21 March

### **Palm Sunday**

24 March

### **Easter**

29 March-1 April (President's Easter Message)

### **Talanoa Oceania Conference**

4-6 April

### **ANZAC Day**

25 April

### **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 March

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.

<b>3 March</b>	Presbytery Leadership - Chair David Higham, Deputy Chair Rev Joy Blamires and Treasurer Jeff Gardner
<b>10 March</b>	Presbytery Ministry Team - Presbytery Ministers Rev Jay Robinson Rev Anneke Oppewal and Rev Robin Yang Purple Secretary Anne Kim, Communication Officer Sarah Manase
<b>17 March</b>	Brighton Trinity congregation - Rev Kevin Kim, Chair Ms Helen Wells
<b>24 March</b>	Brighton St Leonard's congregation - Rev Kim Cain, Chair Peter Hunkin
<b>31 March</b>	Charman congregation (Former Cheltenham Mentone & Black Rock) - Rev Greg Fry and Dianne Paterson, Chair Barry Arnold and Chair David Johnson





# A CALMING PRAYER

*Quiet now, listen,  
take a moment  
and look  
at the clouds  
open your mind  
and make room for God.*

*Become aware of your  
breathing  
the gift of life  
Feel your body  
taking in and letting go  
gently relaxing  
into a moment  
alone  
with God*

*Listen, to love  
knocking at the door  
of your heart  
close your eyes  
and let  
gentle healing in  
from within  
the heart of God*

By Rev Anneke Oppewal

*Nothing to do  
but to sit and be  
with Christ  
and let the  
Spirit*

*Pray, without words,  
making room  
to share the space  
with a God  
who longs to be with you.  
Amen.*



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



03 9558 4710



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[www.ucappegp.org](http://www.ucappegp.org)



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