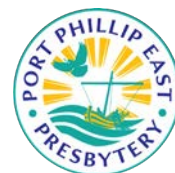




NEWSBEAT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



APRIL 2021

Protecting the planet –
churches connect faith with
climate change action

page 3



Resurrection in a tent –
inspiration & prayer
for an Easter people

pages 4 & 5



Gathering to grow a healthy culture

Members of Port Phillip East Presbytery were warmly welcomed on Saturday March 20 to the great spaces of the Korean Church of Melbourne (KCM) in Malvern, with many joining in on Zoom. KCM is well resourced with both technology and hospitality to host such meetings.

In the first part of the meeting we affirmed and celebrated Rev Sam Joo as a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church. Sam is one of the ministers at KCM. He has had theological training at Princeton in the USA and will make a great contribution to our Presbytery.



by Tom Spurling
Presbytery Chair

We commissioned three people in the Ministry of Pastor.

We affirmed God's call to Hannah Dungan in her role as Youth Coordinator at High St Uniting Church, Frankston.

We affirmed God's call to Kaylea Fearn and Bradon French in their roles as chaplains at Wesley College.

In the second part of the meeting, attended by over seventy members, we appreciated the work of Ian Firth as the Presbytery Secretary over the last five years, and elected Anne Kim as our new Presbytery Secretary. We also welcomed Ira Budiono as a co-opted member of the Standing Committee.

We then spent time reflecting on the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and our 2021 Operating Plan developed by the Standing Committee. The groups were appreciative of the opportunity to think of the future, of ways to build strong healthy ties with our communities and Uniting Church schools and agencies and to be lifelong disciples of the Risen Lord.

See our vision and mission priorities on page two, with a summary of our group discussions by Kelly Skilton.

Tom Spurling

Jeff Gardner and Hanil Seo coordinate
visuals for live and Zoom participants.
Photo by Craig Mitchell.



Bradon French on being a school chaplain

Bradon started as Chaplain at Wesley College's Glen Waverley campus in 2021, joining Kaylea Fearn who has been chaplain at the Elsternwick campus for five years. Their ministry was recognised at the Presbytery meeting.

"I started with 50% excitement and 50% utter terror. Six weeks in, and that balance seems about right. Wesley is a vibrant community with a proud history, and to be campus chaplain (& RE teacher) is a privilege.

In my previous Synod work, I've long envied our UCA school chaplains – their daily presence in school communities, the opportunity to offer pastoral care and prophetic insight to students, teachers and their families, and their witness to an embodied faith. As I tentatively follow in their footsteps, I now know that's just the tip of the iceberg.

I'm constantly thankful for the opportunity, the daily surprises and the rich blessings being a School Chaplain provides. Even if I have to wear a tie."



Bradon French speaks to students at a school assembly at Wesley College, Glen Waverley Campus



Kelly Skilton reflects on the small group discussion at Port Phillip East Presbytery's meeting in March 2021.

"Responses all come back to ability, training and relationships. What does it mean to be in healthy relationship in all areas of the church, community, with agencies, as lifelong disciples, as (and with) collaborative leadership? What are our unhealthy spaces? The relationships that still need healing – how do you cultivate trust with one another to form healthy relationships?"

Kelly Skilton

Port Phillip East Presbytery Vision

As the Uniting Church in Port Phillip East

- Following Christ
- Walking together as first and second peoples
- Seeking community, compassion, and justice for all creation
- Building up healthy communities of faith

Shared Mission Principles

God in Christ is at mission in the world and sends the Church in the Spirit to:

1. Share the Good News of Jesus Christ
2. Nurture followers of Christ in life-giving communities of reconciliation
3. Respond in compassion to human need
4. Live justly and seek justice for all
5. Care for creation
6. Listen to each generation and culture so as to live out the Gospel in fresh ways
7. Pursue God's mission in partnership

Mission Priorities

Growing a culture of local mission and ministry marked by

- Healthy relationships
- Lifelong disciples
- Collaborative leaders
- Active engagement with agencies, schools and each other

Protecting our planet – churches in action



Port Phillip East Presbytery is gathering stories from congregations on ways they are caring for creation and addressing climate change.

Frankston Clean Up

Members at High Street Uniting Church, Frankston, joined in the Clean Up Australia Day clean up at the Frankston beach. Overall 18kg of rubbish was picked up at the Frankston beach that morning, and 8kg of recyclables.

Mount Eliza Action

Members of The Village Church Mount Eliza believe our faith calls us to care for the creation and its people, and action on climate change is needed now.

Recently they took part in the #SacredPeopleSacredEarth event to bring awareness and encourage governments, including our Australian Government, to take bold action when they meet at COP26 in Glasgow in November.



Climate Data Scarves from Hampton & Pakenham

In 2020 the Creation & Climate Justice arm of Common Grace launched an initiative to bring together knitters from across Australia to knit 101 scarves that follow the pattern of 101 years of climate data. In winter 2021, these scarves will be distributed to church and political leaders to inspire climate action.

The scarf pattern represents the average global temperature across 101 years. It was inspired by the Cambridge Federation of Women's Institute's 100 Years Climate Scarf and uses Mick Pope's temperature data from 1919 to 2019. Each temperature is given a different colour on a spectrum to show the shift from cool to warm, and a stripe knitted to correspond to each year.

Ann Simons, minister at Hampton Uniting Church, shared the article about knitting scarves for Climate Change and eleven ladies from Hampton and one from Pakenham took up the challenge. Most of these are over 80 and a couple are over 90! There were 14 scarves sent in March.



By Margaret Ackland

Share your care for creation story with us – send your story to newsbeat@ucappep.org

The resurrection in a tent

Anneke Oppewal reflects on Exodus 25-40 and John 2: 18-22

How have you been going with the resurrecting of Church after a year of lockdowns and COVID19 restrictions? Still a bit unsettled? Not quite there yet?

One of the stories the Bible tells about long lasting unsettledness is the story about the people traveling through the Sinai desert for 40 years on their way to the promised land after they've left a life of slavery building what probably were religious and cultural monuments in the land of Egypt.

On that journey they get to carry a tent sanctuary with them that they pull down and resurrect as they go. Detailed instructions for the construction and furnishings of that sanctuary can be found in the last 15 chapters of Exodus.

Those instructions are filled with references to the story of God's journeying with the people up till then. There is reference to the seven days of creation, to the story of Noah and the flood, to the story of Moses being called to leadership and the exodus from slavery in Egypt.

Writing as it were, the history of creation and salvation into the very fabric of the tent. Reminding people of God's faithfulness and commitment every time the tent is put up.

They also carry a treasure chest with guidelines for a good life with them, placed in the sanctuary every time they set up camp. The Spirit of God coming down and hovering over it wherever they go.

The great temple in Jerusalem, was built on the same template. It was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

In John's gospel Jesus refers to himself as the temple of God. A new, mobile and movable sanctuary with reference to God's faithfulness and love written all over it. With the treasure of God's guidance and abiding presence right in the middle of it.

Easter tells the story of how that sanctuary is pulled down and then resurrected in three days. How God continues the journey with God's people, continues to be present in and through the Spirit, even in the most unsettling of times.

Returning after COVID to our, not so portable, sanctuaries may feel unsettling. Maybe we wonder what lies ahead for us. It's not the first time God's people have found themselves wondering. So far God has always provided. Let's have faith that as the journey continues that provision will continue to be part of what we will experience in our time of God's faithfulness.



A Tent Prayer for Easter

God make us into a tent
where your word can live,
where your guidance is treasured
and the Spirit
brings order out of chaos.

A place that moves and is moveable,
the story of your faithfulness
written all over it
testifying to the abundance
of your gifts of grace to us

Your guidance of our lives
showing up in light and love
making justice and peace grow
in, through and around us
in your Name.

Make us into a dwelling place
where Christ lives,
finding his shape
in our hands and our feet
resurrected
where our lives resemble his.

God create a heart in us
that knows how to let go
and trust that the journey continues
even where we are called
to move from what we knew
to something new and different.

God inspire a hope in us
that sparkles with Christ's light
of getting up and walking on
and never giving up

And carry us through
whenever that Good Friday comes
till we can see the Easter morning dawn
showing us the way.

Amen

by Anneke Oppewal
Presbytery Minister: Pastoral



Outdoor worship service at Kom en Zie Kerk, a church in Schinnen, the Netherlands, July 05, 2020. Photo by Maarten Middelveld.



Shaping Uniting Church history

The Uniting Church Historical Society will explore how ministers of the past shaped the future at their Zoom meeting, Sunday, 18 April 2021 at 2.00pm.

Rowland Ward will talk about Laurence Rentoul, also known as Fighting Larry, an early Presbyterian leader in Melbourne. Arriving from Ireland in Australia in 1879 as Minister at St Georges Church, St Kilda East, he publicly argued against Melbourne's liberal theology leader Rev Charles Strong. A colourful theologian with diverse views, he opposed the Boer War yet became Chaplain General of the AIF in WWI. He was a firm Protestant yet supported Home Rule for Ireland, and gave the St Patrick's Day address in 1901.

Joan Waters will launch her book, *Chance and Changes*, telling the story of her late husband Reynolds Waters. Beyond Brighton Beach and Balwyn North, Rev Reynolds Waters was a parish minister who travelled widely within Victoria, and led churches in the USA.

Email Robert Renton robert.renton@bigpond.com for a link to the Zoom meeting.

Neighbour Day Street Party

Live folk music, fairy floss, face painting, games, coffee and crafts were part of the Street Party at Murrumbeena UC on Sunday 28 March to celebrate annual Neighbour Day. Lots of passers-by drifted in for entertainment, coffee, some fun and a chat.



Neil Peters, Warren Bartlett & Craig Mitchell

Celebrating Warren Bartlett's outstanding service

Glen Waverley Uniting Church and Port Phillip East Presbytery celebrated the 65th anniversary of the ordination of Rev Dr Warren Bartlett, aged 90, at a recent Sunday morning worship service. Warren is a GWUC member and former Moderator of the Synod. Neil Peters and Craig Mitchell presented a certificate from the Synod and Presbytery.

More Anniversaries

The Presbytery will continue to partner with congregations this year to celebrate the ministry of Peter Aumann (60 years of ordination) at Cheltenham/Mentone & Black Rock, Margaret Black (60 years) at Armadale, Wal Baker (50 years) at Toorak, Merle Fechner (50 years) at Berwick.



Welcoming Children

Paul Dau, minister at Springvale Uniting Church, recently graduated from University of Divinity with a graduate certificate in children and families ministry. He writes about what he found valuable in the course.

“

The course on Children and Families Ministry helped me to gain an informed understanding of what it means to be called a child of God.

I found Judith Gundry-Volf's five images of children helpful. She describes children as both recipients of the reign of God and models of entering the reign of God. She writes about humility, serving children and being great, welcoming children and welcoming Jesus.

I believe that if we adhere to those images in our congregational lives and practices, we can reduce the marginalisation of children. I would love to see an active participation of children in worship in a more focused and tailored way. We have been doing that here at Springvale over the last two years with the introduction of special services aimed at children. ”



Port Phillip East Presbytery congratulates University of Divinity graduates Paul Dau (Graduate Certificate in Children and Families Ministry), Juli Lincoln (Graduate Diploma in Theology) Ennis Macleod (Graduate Certificate in Divinity) and Andrea Mayes (Master of Theological Studies) who was also named Vice-Chancellor's Scholar.



Edited by
Lucy Moore

**Messy Church perspectives
on growing faith**

Messy Discipleship Down Under Book Launch

Messy Discipleship: Messy Church perspectives on growing faith is the next exciting Messy Church book due for release in 2021. Commencing at 1.30pm on Thursday April 22, this very special FREE Zoom launch event will include the opportunity to find out more about the book, engage with a number of the contributors and connect with others from around the Messy Church world.

Contributors present on the day will include:

- Chris Barnett (AUS) All-Age Discipleship
- Sandy Brodine (AUS) Creativity & Discipleship
- Jocelyn Czerwonka (NZ) Hospitality & Discipleship
- Lucy Moore (UK) Messy Church founder.

The launch will also include information on a series of book groups being set up for those interested in exploring the content further and implementing the ideas presented.

Register by Monday 19th April 2021 on

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/messy-discipleship-book-launch-tickets-146200797521>

Presbytery Meeting Dates 2021

Port Phillip East Presbytery is holding four meetings in 2021. Voting members include ministers, deacons and people in serving in ministry in congregations and other settings, and lay members sent by their congregations.

Presbytery meetings are becoming more focused on developing shared vision, growing capacity and encouraging members in their mission and ministry. Visitors are always welcome.

Wednesday, June 16, 7 - 9 pm, on Zoom

Saturday, August 21, 10 am, in person & on Zoom

Wednesday, November 17, 7 - 9 pm on Zoom



Ms Anne Kim has been elected as the Port Phillip East Presbytery Secretary, picking up the responsibilities carried by Mr Ian Firth over the last five years. Anne is based in the Presbytery office in Noble Park, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Her email address is secretary@ucappeg.org

Ian Firth continues as Pastoral Relations Committee Secretary. His email address is prc-secretary@ucappeg.org

Ms Ira Budiono, previously chair of Church Council at St Andrew's Gardiner, has been co-opted as a member of the Presbytery Standing Committee.

Presbytery Contacts

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Duncan Macleod pm-tl@ucappeg.org

Craig Mitchell pm-cd@ucappeg.org

Anneke Oppewal pm-pastoral@ucappeg.org

Jeff Gardner treasurer@ppe.victas.uca.org.au

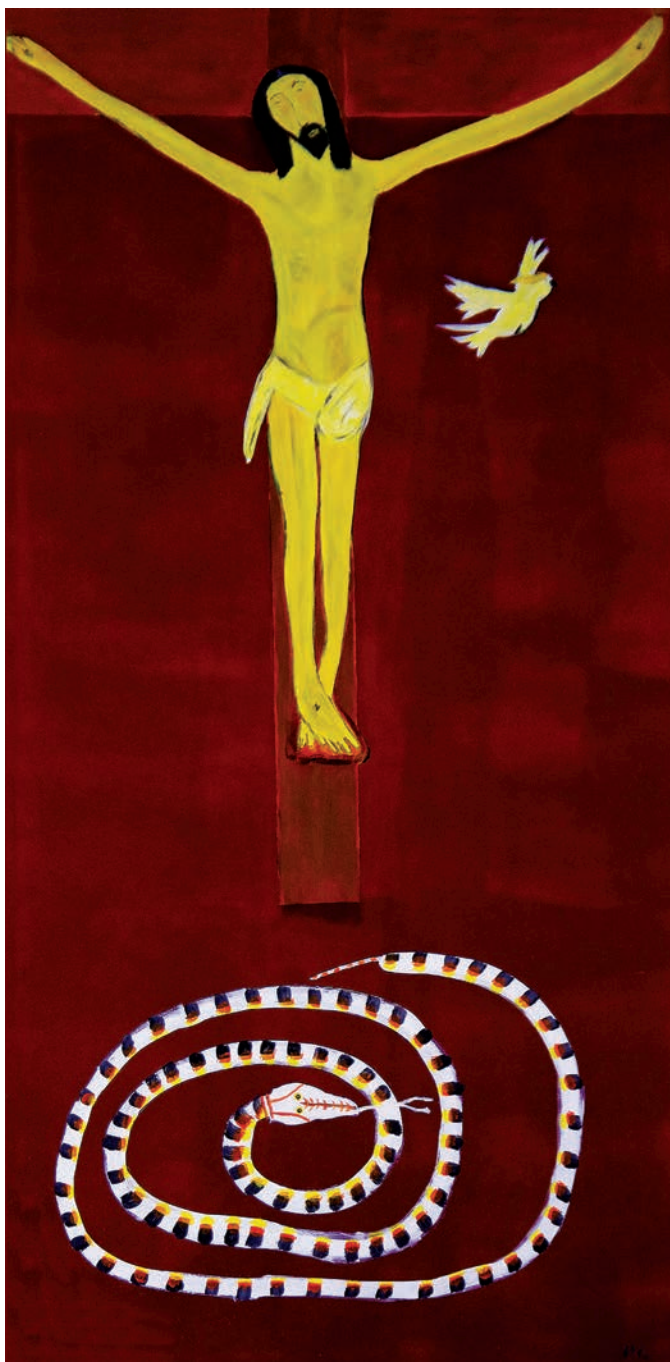
Uniting in prayer

At the end of each year the Presbytery sends out the prayer calendar for use in worship. It is also uploaded onto the Presbytery website www.ucappeg.org. Here's the list for the next four weeks:

April 4 (Easter Sunday)	High St Uniting Church, Frankston. Pray for Rev David Fotheringham, Rev Brenda Cooper, Ms Hannah Dungan, Monash University chaplain Ms Mandy Lake, chairperson Ross Huggard.
April 11	St Andrew's Uniting Church Gardiner. Pray for Rev Ajub Jahya, Ms Tracie Mulia, and chairperson Irma Aer.
April 18	Glen Waverley Uniting Church. Pray for Rev Neil Peters, Ms Alanee Hearnshaw, Di Paterson, Jemma Graham and chairperson Glyn Howells.
April 25	Haileybury College, Keysborough, Brighton, Berwick campuses. Pray for Principal Derek Scott, board members, staff and students.

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, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, but should advise that photographs may be used across all, unless instructed otherwise.

To submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter, send all articles and images to newsbeat@ucappeg.org



Mount Waverley Chadstone
Inter Church Council

Way of the Cross

Good Friday
April 2, 2021

Commencing 11.15am
in HSR/St John's Uniting
Church carpark

37 Virginia St, Mount Waverley

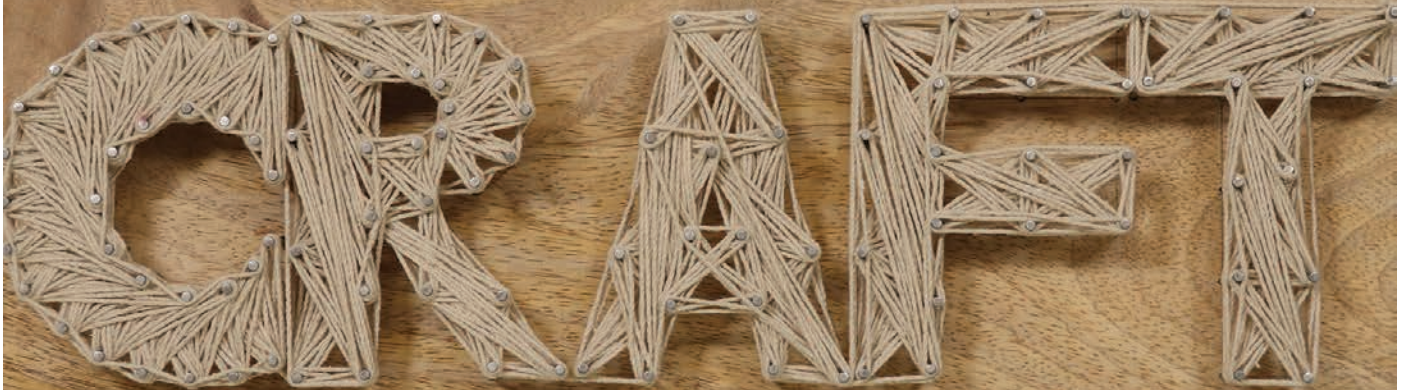
The route will be along Park Lane to Sherwood
Park. Stations will be visited around the park and
surrounding areas before finishing in the carpark
opposite Woolworths carpark.

All are welcome to
celebrate with us





W E S T E R N P O R T



E X P O

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Saturday, 10 April, 2021

10am–4pm

Hastings Community Hub

1973 Frankston-Flinders Road, Hastings

ENTRY: \$5 Adults / \$2 School-age Kids



Designed by Ethan Holford - theamazingadventurer12345@gmail.com

www.wpcraftexpo.com
Enquiries: 0477 149 734



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South Pacific

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*One of the world's most beloved musicals
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Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church

Sat. April 24 @ 2pm sharp

Includes afternoon tea

\$5 per person

*Please extend this invitation to your
family and friends.*

RSVP to Bob for catering purposes

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