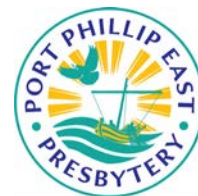


# NEWSBEAT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



MAY 2021



Enjoying a cuppa and a chat about the new PWMU Cookbook. Page 2

Diamond anniversary service for a Deaconess. Page 6



## Excitement builds as we move forward in local mission

Mission strategy. Growing disciples. Equipping lay leaders. Resourcing congregations.

The newly established Mission and Leadership Development Committee provides a focus for strategic thinking and development within our presbytery's priorities. After a COVID-delay on starting up the new group, there's a bubbling enthusiasm to get underway.

Convenor Kelly Skilton says: "The MLDC is underway with a team of excited, inspiring and passionate people. We cannot wait to find ways to engage in conversations, resourcing, networking and sharing across the life of the church, and ask what it means to be present and engaged in our wider communities."

The new committee consists of Kelly Skilton, David Higham, Heeyoung Lim, Mat Pendle, Hans Tilstra, Berlin Guerrero, Belinda Clear, Samantha Menzies and Craig Mitchell.



**by Craig Mitchell**  
**Presbytery Minister:**  
**Church Development**

They hope to foster interest-based networks across the presbytery in areas such as local mission, growing disciples, leadership development, new faith communities, and intercultural leadership.

"We see the synod priorities around intergenerational and intercultural ministry and mission as being vital for our work, as well as the challenge of seeding new Christian fellowships, particularly in growing suburbs," says Craig Mitchell. "We also want to encourage some outside-the-box thinking about new initiatives."



**"The MLDC is underway with a team of excited, inspiring and passionate people."**

Visit [ucapppep.org](http://ucapppep.org), [facebook.com/ucapppep.org](https://facebook.com/ucapppep.org), [twitter.com/ucapppep](https://twitter.com/ucapppep) & [instagram.com/ucapppep](https://instagram.com/ucapppep)

## Burnout and Ministry

Rev Anneke Oppewal (Presbytery Minister Pastoral) will present on “How to keep your batteries charged and avoid burnout” on **Friday May 7th, 10am - 11.30am.**

Exploring how ministry agents and volunteers care for themselves to keep the Church a place where everyone continues to sparkle and gets the nourishment and care they need? This seminar is about how to self care, keeping your batteries charged and not running out of puff, showing the world that faith is fun and Church is a healthy, happy place where people grow and flourish.

Pre-reading that would be helpful from Forbes.com -  
10 Signs You're Burning Out and What to Do About it

To join the discussion click on this link Zoom:

<https://bit.ly/ppepzoomcafe2021>

Meeting ID: 858 1718 6901, Passcode: 909337 Or phone (03) 7018 2005, use meeting ID and passcode.



## Gourmets delight at cookbook launch

After so many months in isolation Gabriel Gaté thoroughly entertained a crowd hungry for news, laughter and connection at the PWMU Cookbook's 5th revised edition launch.

The event was held at North Ringwood Uniting Church on April 14 and PWMU Cookbook Committee secretary Pam Grant and Moderator Rev Denise Liersch also addressed the thankful audience.

Since the first edition in 1904, the cookbook has become a staple ingredient in Australian kitchens with more than 500,000 copies sold. Royalties from sales have also contributed tens of thousands in grants for scholarships and mission work.

Jillian Drysdale, of Cranbourne Uniting Church, serves on the PWMU Cookbook Committee and certainly has the right pedigree, as she is also the cook on the Cranbourne Food Truck. email [pwmu.cookbook7@gmail.com](mailto:pwmu.cookbook7@gmail.com) to order your copy

*Pictured: Rev Denise Liersch & Pam Grant, cookbooks aplenty & Gabriel Gaté with Stonnington UC's Grace McAllister.*





## ***Psalm 133 and the book of Acts***

“On a chilly afternoon I was fortunate enough to be one of three ministers, in placement somewhere in our presbytery, who met for a cup of coffee in a cafe in Oakleigh.

None of us were Australian born, although one grew up in Australia. Two were born and raised about as far apart on the globe as it is physically possible to be. All of us speak more than two languages. All three of us had studied significant chunks of Karl Barth's Kirchliche Dogmatik and had been deeply influenced by his theology on Baptism.

We all had stories to tell about how our understanding of baptism had developed and we discovered that we had all arrived at a point where we could agree that Barth's theology, that adult baptism probably has more going for it biblically than infant baptism, is probably right.

### **Prayer**

How beautiful is it  
when people live together in harmony  
when all is well  
and peace is around and about?

How beautiful is it  
when people feel God's presence close,  
when they feel supported  
and cared for?

How beautiful is it  
when that dream fuels action  
that invites Christ to come alive  
and be present?

How beautiful is it  
when hands and feet,  
eyes and ears,  
bodies and minds  
embody abundant life to each other?

How beautiful is it  
when peace flows  
and sins are forgiven  
when wounds are healed  
and scars honoured?

How beautiful is it  
when one can wander off  
and be accepted in again,  
when there is time  
and attention for everyone  
to be lovingly embraced and cared for?

**by Anneke Oppewal**  
**Presbytery Minister:**  
**Pastoral**



One had dedicated their own children but still continued to baptise infants in other settings. One had decided to follow their heart rather than their mind, and baptise their own children as well as being open to dedication and infant and adult baptisms for others. One had remained committed to infant baptism as the right way for the Church but would dedicate children if parents so desired and adult baptism seen as something for new Christians only.

In a nutshell the Church as it is 2000 years after Pentecost. A multilingual, multicultural community where a variety of understanding and insight lives side by side.

Some will see this as laxness. Others see it as a growth of the Church into itself. Reading from the book of Acts the last couple of Sundays I believe it to be the latter. The New Testament shows we are not a group of followers moving more together as one. On the contrary, it shows us a group of people that grows and changes in their understanding, that adjusts and adapts to its environment, that finds words to communicate with people in languages that are different from their own and connect with people in cultures and settings that are alien to where they have come from.

Paul and the Church outside Palestine and Peter and James and the Church inside Palestine decide to a parting of the ways on good terms. Thomas sets off to travel to India and loses contact with the others. Someone ends up in Ethiopia and starts a Church there that is different from what grows up in Europe. As does the Coptic Church in Egypt. The whole book of Acts is about the gospel travelling to the ends of the earth, expanding and changing and transforming as it goes.

Are we still that Church? That growing, morphing, changing, varying Church? Can we live like Psalm 133 pictures, as brothers and sisters who know the love of God and practice it among themselves in a variety of ways; in a way that Christ comes alive in who we are and what we do? Or are we so attached to our own views that seeing the other as brother or sister, as a member of Christ body called and loved like us, has become difficult for us? ”

# godsend - a 24/7 resource for discipleship and mission



## 1. Listen

## 2. Love

## 3. Community

## 4. Share Jesus

## 5. Church

## 6. Repeat

These are six movements in the formation of new faith communities, drawing on years of research in the UK and more widely.

Presence or "being with" people comes first - on their turf, not ours. Genuine friendship and community-building follow. Giving voice to our faith can be easier and more natural than we think.

And growing a group into an expression of Christian community or church can follow, with opportunities for people to grow as disciples.

Developed in the UK by the interchurch Fresh Expressions initiative, godsend is in part aimed at people keen to share their faith with others, and also at people wanting to grow in faith but lacking suitable local opportunities.

The free app seeks to provide guidance in simple steps, as well as short videos providing explanation and stories.

godsend now resources being developed in Australia from our context, with Uniting Church input from several synods. The steps might sound simple, even trite, so it's worth seeing what the app has to offer.

The invitation is simple: you and one or more friends spend time with people outside the church. Make real friendships. Be honest and open about your faith and be genuinely interested in other people's beliefs and values.



*Above: Sharing stories - just one element of the new godsend resource app available for download*

Some of this already happens in gatherings like Messy Church, in Op Shop conversations and around the veggie patch in community gardens. It happens at Playgroups and Mums' morning cuppas.

A further step is to foster a new expression of Christian community right there.

One of our three synod priorities is "ministries which foster diverse

gathered communities of renewal, Christian practice and mission".

Perhaps this can be a small way to help encourage us in that direction.

These steps are explored in godsend - a multimedia app for smartphones and tablets designed to help people to grow as disciples and share their faith.

*by Dr Craig Mitchell  
Presbytery Minister - Church Development*

To access the godsend resource app visit eitherlink:  
<https://apps.apple.com/au/app/fx-godsend/id1319367038>  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=so.appt.godsend>

# Special ANZAC Day to mark the decade

Dennis Freeman shares a poignant anniversary moment at Cornish College



Cornish College paused on Friday 23 April to commemorate Anzac Day in a special service hosted by the College Captains. To begin, Cornish Reconciliation Leader, Lily Turner, gave a powerful Acknowledgement of Country in which she recognised the important service of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Armed Forces. Olivia Buckley, a College Captain, then commenced the service with an explanation of the significance of Anzac Day.

The College welcomed two special guests, Kenneth Park and Sarah Henderson. Kenneth is a lecturer, curator, historian and presenter who has conducted many guided tours in Australia and overseas, including Gallipoli. Sarah is a Melbourne-based trumpet player and a former member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band, who has played the Last Post and The Rouse on many occasions, including at the 2014 Dawn Service in Gallipoli.

Given that 2021 is the tenth year of Cornish College, Kenneth shared ten facts about Anzac Day, including that the ANZACs were all volunteers and that, sadly, more than 11,000 of them died at Gallipoli, including James Charles Martin – the youngest known Australian to have died in World War I at only 14 years and nine months of age. Kenneth also talked about Anzac biscuits, which were traditionally eaten instead of bread and were so hard that they were known to break some soldiers' teeth!

He emphasised the importance of the ANZAC spirit, which includes qualities such as endurance, ingenuity, mateship, courage, larrikinism and a good sense of humour, and how this spirit is part of what it means to be an Australian or a New Zealander. Kenneth said that everyone has a connection with the ANZAC story, from ancestors who fought in World War I to those who display the ANZAC spirit in everyday life. We commemorate those who gave their lives so that we might enjoy a life with more safety, security and freedom.

The College Captains laid wreaths and two read *For the Fallen* by Lawrence Binyon and *The Ode of Remembrance*. The Last Post – played during war to signify the end of the day, meaning soldiers could rest – and The Rouse, followed by a benediction by Rev Claire Dawe, were a fitting conclusion to a moving service. Everyone paused for a minute's silence for all Australians and New Zealanders who made the ultimate sacrifice in wars. Lest we forget.



## CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

There is a valuable on-line event for leaders in May:

### Stories of Childhood May 22, 2pm - 4pm AEST

Stories of Childhood is held annually for those engaged in ministry – including Playgroups - with families with children aged 0-5. The 2021 event will focus on...

- Nurturing spirituality in 0-5s and their carers (Judyth Roberts)
- Nurturing our leaders and ourselves (Kimberly Smith)

Registration by Monday May 17 appreciated by clicking [here](#).



Above: Margaret speaks to Armadale UC congregation of her life's calling as a Deaconess.

## Margaret's sixty years of service

Presbytery Minister Team Leader, Rev Duncan Macleod represented Port Phillip East Presbytery and VicTas Synod at a special service at Armadale Uniting Church recently. He was honouring Rev Margaret Black's 60 years in ministry, as Deaconess with the Presbyterian Church and Deacon with the UCA. Pictured right, with Duncan and Margaret, are Karel Reus and Rev Fiona Winn.



## Marking Mother's Day

### White Chrysanthemums

It's May. They're out in our front garden. A glorious display of pure white. Nature's calendar reminding us it is May and Mother's Day time. So many memories for my generation.

Our Mum looked after ageing grand parents. Saw us through the Depression and made ends meet with Dad out of work. Farewelled two older brothers off to the war and prayed for them every day. Saw us through measles, mumps and chicken pox. This is every Mum's story. Today Mums serve their families in multiple ways through pandemic, bush fire and drought. Home makers.

Praise God for Mothers, on Mothers Day and every day! They love us unconditionally. Jesus never forgot his mother Mary. In terrible pain, nailed, high on that cross, he looked down and saw in all the crowd his beloved mother, Mary.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her he said to his mother: "Woman, here is your son. Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (John 19:26,27)

### Reflection:

Mothers are called to a special mission. Read Matthew 19:13-15. They are called to bring children to meet Jesus and be blessed by him. Thank God for these home missionaries in the Master's service.

by Bill Pugh

# Developing presbytery strategy and plans

The Presbytery Standing Committee and Church Councils across the Presbytery have recently recommitted to keeping children safe, with the following commitment:

- We are committed to implementing the Child Safe Policy of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania so that all children involved in our activities, services, events, and programs are safe and feel safe. We are committed to providing safe environments where children are cared for, respected, nurtured and sustained.
- We are committed to embedding child safety and wellbeing in all we do including in our leadership and governance. We have zero tolerance of all forms of child abuse and will do all in our power to safeguard children from abuse.
- We are committed to informing children and young people about their rights and to their participation in decisions that affect them. We will take their opinions and suggestions seriously.
- We are committed to informing and involving families and communities in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- We are committed to respecting diversity and promoting equity.
- We are committed to ensuring people who work with children are suitable for this work and committed to child safety and wellbeing. We will ensure that anyone who works with children is recruited, screened, trained, and supervised well.
- We are committed to child focused, culturally appropriate complaints processes. We will take complaints seriously, respond promptly and thoroughly and report abuse to the appropriate authorities.
- We are committed to ensuring our leaders and volunteers undertake ongoing education and training on child safety.
- We are committed to ensuring our physical and online environments are safe and promote safety.
- We are committed to reviewing our practices, procedures, and policies. This includes learning from any accidents or incidents.

For me, one of the highlights of our March Presbytery in Council meeting was the small group discussions on the strategy and plans for the Presbytery prepared by the Standing Committee.



by Tom Spurling  
Presbytery Chair

The responses of each of the small groups were summarised by Kelly Skilton and Jay Robinson and incorporated into the thinking of the Standing Committee at its meeting in April.

There was considerable alignment between the plans presented and the comments from the small groups. Thank you for that! We all want to follow Christ, seeking compassion and justice for all creation.

## The Mission Priority:

Growing a culture marked by healthy relationships, was part of many discussions. You told us that you want to build healthy relationships with first peoples, with both our local community and with neighbouring congregations of all denominations and with your local Uniting Church schools and agencies.

We recognise that our congregations have been involved in this mission since their formation. The task of the Presbytery committees and Presbytery Ministry team is to assist you in strengthening this culture .

We are already doing this through our training programs, our support of ministry agents, our work with you on the Money for Mission program, the mission pilot program, our support for local treasurers and finance committees, and the developing work of the Mission Leadership and Development committee.

Please let us know how we can help you testify that God in Christ is at mission in your community sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## A new Presbytery website launching soon

Our new website, which will go live on 16 June, will have a focus on resourcing leaders in congregations for ministry and mission. It will include guidance and materials for worship leadership, stories and planning materials about local mission, support for lifelong discipleship growth, as well as a range of information for church councils, ministry agents and those in lay leadership roles. Stay tuned for launch details.

## Presbytery Meeting Dates 2021

- Wednesday, June 16, 7 - 9pm, on Zoom
- Saturday, August 21, 10am, in person & on Zoom
- Wednesday, November 17, 7 - 9pm on Zoom

### Presbytery Contacts:

Tom Spurling chair@ucappeg.org

Anne Kim secretary@ucappeg.org

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

## Standing Committee discussions

At its April meeting the Standing Committee reflected on issues raised in responses to the Synod *Here For Good* project team and the *Money for Mission Steering Group*.

It was noted that the Uniting Church is experiencing a tension between an arrangement in which every Presbytery has to rely on an equal share of funding from Synod, and a new context in which Presbyteries are able to respond to development needs through innovation and enterprise.

How can Port Phillip East as a metropolitan Presbytery respond to our own needs but also respond to the needs of rural and regional Presbyteries?

The Presbytery in its planning needs to consider the development of mission priorities that are shared across congregations.

It was agreed that further work will need to be done on understanding different cultural approaches to sharing financial resources, including motivation for mission.

Do we talk about implementing mission strategy or foster being part of a missional movement?



## 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](http://www.ucappeg.org). Here's the list for the next five weeks:

May 2	Hampton - Pray for minister Ann Simons & chair Ian Menzies Hampton Park - Ric Holland, Jo Austin & chair David Taylor
May 9	Heatherton-Dingley - Andrea Mayes and chair Christine Duguid Karingal - Reg Davies & chair Kieth Pyke
May 16	Korean Church of Melbourne - Pray for Ministry Team Han Song & Sam Joo, and chair Ken Cho Leighmoor congregation - Pray for Minister Heeyoung Lim & chair Fiona Wailes
May 23	St Mark's Mornington - Pray for Joy Blamires and chair Ann Scoular Mission Liaison Group - Pray for Convenor John Connan
May 30	The Village Church Mount Eliza - Pray for Ministry Team Cameron McAdam, Tim Gordon, Shona Potts & chair Kaye De Wijn

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](mailto:newsbeat@ucappeg.org)



# Somers is up and running for 2021 - register now!

Somers is always the first week of the winter school holidays - so this year it's June 28-July 2. Registration isn't open yet, but it'll be via the website: [www.somerscamp.com.au](http://www.somerscamp.com.au)

Somers Camp is a Uniting Church camp run by the Port Philip East Presbytery for children in Years 3 to 9. The camp runs each year in the first week of the winter school holidays from Monday to Friday.

They have been running since 1957, and have become one of the largest Uniting Church children and youth camps in Australia.

Somer's priority is to create an environment where children and youth are comfortable being themselves—a

place where they feel like they can put themselves out there without fear of rejection.

Through doing this they hope to build a space where campers feel comfortable exploring the Christian faith and learning about God's love for them.

Somers Camp also aims to be an excellent place for developing young leaders.

From Year 10 Somers invites youth to come to camp in leadership roles so that they can learn the skills needed to continue this amazing camp.

Please pray for our 40 young leaders attending leadership training over the weekend of May 14-16, in preparation for Somers 2021!

For more information & registration, check out [www.somerscamp.com.au](http://www.somerscamp.com.au)

A colorful illustration of a campsite at night. In the background, there are mountains, a crescent moon, and stars. In the middle ground, there are several buildings, including a large white one with a red roof, a smaller one with a red roof, and a lighthouse-like structure. A palm tree stands in the center. In the foreground, there are green trees and a wooden signpost with two arrows: one pointing left to 'MELBOURNE' and one pointing right to 'SOMERS CAMP'. The sky is dark blue with white stars. The overall style is cartoonish and friendly.

**SOMERS CAMP**  
port philip east presbytery | childrens camp

Somers Camp is a camp for children from Grade 3 - Year 9.

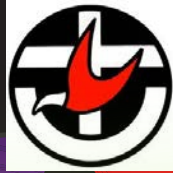
**THE CAMP EMPOWERS CHILDREN IN A FRIENDLY, CARING COMMUNITY**

It runs from Monday afternoon until Friday morning during the first week of the winter school holidays.

The leaders of the camp are dedicated to providing a safe and friendly place for children to have fun and grow as people.

**"BEST FIVE DAYS OF MY YEAR"**

**Contact details**  
[somerscamp.com.au](http://somerscamp.com.au) [facebook.com/somerscamp](https://facebook.com/somerscamp)  
[admin@somerscamp.com.au](mailto:admin@somerscamp.com.au)



# MAY FETE!

*High Street Uniting Church*

SATURDAY 8TH MAY  
9 AM - 2 PM

Handmade Goods, Books, Plants, Food  
Stalls, Coffee Van, Book Stall, Plants,  
live entertainment and much more.....

All Welcome!!!

**16-18 HIGH ST, FRANKSTON**

[WWW.FRANKSTONUNITING.ORG](http://WWW.FRANKSTONUNITING.ORG)



# **Dementia Workshop St Mark's Day Centre**

**At High Street Road & St John's Uniting Church  
37 Virginia St Mt Waverley  
1.30pm to 3.00pm on Friday May 28<sup>th</sup>**



**The Co-ordinator, Ethan Gankanda, will describe St Mark's Day Care activities and how people can access the Program. The Centre cares for many older people, not necessarily those with Dementia.**

Then, please join us for a cup of tea or coffee and informal discussion.

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.*

# Principles of a Child Safe Uniting Church in Australia



- 1** **Child safety and wellbeing** is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture



- 2** Children and young people are **informed about their rights**, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously



- 3** **Families and communities** are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing



- 4** **Diversity is respected** and equity is promoted



- 5** Our people are suitable for **work with children** and committed to the values of child safety and wellbeing



- 6** **Child focused** complaints processes



- 7** Our people are provided with **ongoing education and training** on child safety



- 8** **Physical and online** environments promote safety



- 9** **Policies and procedures** document child safety



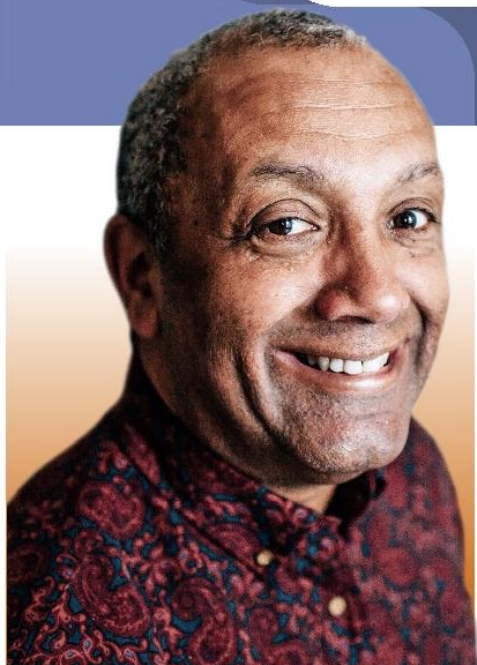
- 10** **Review and continuous improvement** of policy, procedure and practice



ZOOM  
FORUM EVENT

# MENTAL HEALTH

Does religion/spirituality  
support or hinder?



## ZOOM FORUM EVENT FRIDAY JUNE 4, 7-9PM

**John Swinton** is Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care and Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen. For more than a decade John worked as a registered mental health nurse. He also worked for a number of years as a hospital chaplain, and as a community mental health chaplain. In 2004, he founded the University of Aberdeen's Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability.

He has published widely within the areas of mental health, dementia, disability theology, spirituality and healthcare, qualitative research and pastoral care. In 2016 his book *Dementia: Living in the memories of God* won the Archbishop of Canterbury's Ramsey Prize for excellence in theological writing.

Registration is required by **Friday May 28** at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mental-health-tickets-144297231905>  
For full details contact Nigel Hanscamp at [nigel.hanscamp@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:nigel.hanscamp@victas.uca.org.au)

 equipping Leadership for Mission  
Priorities, Focus & Advocacy

 **Uniting Church in Australia**  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

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