



St. Luke's Uniting Church Highton

May Newsletter



Welcome to St. Luke's monthly newsletter.

Our new deadline is the last Wednesday of the month. Brief, interim notices will be published in a single page weekly bulletin, deadline Thursday 9:00am, and announced prior to services.

Mail items to: news@stlukesuca.org.au

Congregation Reports and News

Men's Shed

Did you remember to go to Bunnings, Waurm Ponds, last month? Did you buy a 'sausage'? If you answer 'Yes' to these 2 questions, then you would have seen our Men's Shed in action selling snags. In fact our Men's Shed runs a sausage sizzle at Bunnings on the first Wednesday of every month. On Wednesday we raised over \$800.00, a mighty effort. Well done to our men who took a turn on a roster from 8 am. till 5.00 pm

From Rae Anderson, Mission Outreach Ministry Team

Church Directory, Calendar and Contact information

The Members Area of the St Luke's website is where you will find a list of key church contacts, the monthly roster, and the online calendar showing when the St Luke's Buildings are in use. This area is password protected, email info@stlukesuca.org.au or call the office to have it issued to you. Printed copies of this information can be obtained from the Church Office during open hours. The Church Directory is will be available at the end of March for those who consented to be included.

From Robyn Hodge, Communications Team

Thank you

John and Carole Findlay would sincerely like to thank their St. Luke's family, especially the members of House Church and Walking group, for their love, prayers and support during the past difficult months of their daughter in law Angela's illness and recent passing.

From John & Carole Findlay

Wider Church News

From UnitingWorld

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you with the approval of the Moderator and the General Secretary of the VicTas synod to raise a concern with you as a chairperson UnitingWorld, the Assembly agency that has responsibility for our partnerships with churches overseas, especially in the Pacific and Asia.

As you may have heard there are credible reports that in the next federal budget the government will reduce even further Australia's foreign aid budget, possibly by as much as \$400Million. Our foreign aid budget already stands at historically low levels at just over 0.2% of our GDP making Australia one of the least generous of the developed nations. In UnitingWorld we know that assistance through partnership can make an enormous difference to poor communities overseas. Assisting people to thrive in their own communities seems a better way to enhance security for everyone, including Australia.

I recognise that there may be some in the Australian community who would welcome a further reduction in Australia's assistance to poor nations on the grounds that it will be used to help the poor and needy in this nation. However, even the poor in this country are rich by the standards of these poor nations.

The government seems to be testing the public mood. Unless there is very significant public response urging the government not to cut the foreign aid budget it seems highly likely that it will be reduced. If you feel that Australia has responsibilities to some of the poorest and most vulnerable citizens in the world and that in our relative wealth we can do better I urge you to write to your local MP, the Minister for International Development Cancetta Fierravant-Wells and the Prime Minister. Draft letters are available that people may wish to use, adapt or discard as you see fit.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and for your thoughts and actions.

Blessings and Peace,

Dr Andrew Glenn - Chairperson, UnitingWorld

A word of reflection

I have now been in placement at St Luke's Highton for just over two months. Thank you for the welcome that both Jenny and I have received as we have settled into the congregation's life.

I have been heartened by so much of the life of the Congregation: the commitment to vibrant worship, the opportunities for biblical study, the strong culture of care and prayer, and the various outreach activities.

St Luke's definitely reflects the vision of the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church for a congregation to be a community "... worshipping, witnessing and serving as a fellowship of the Spirit of Christ."

However, there are clearly many challenges for any church community today in a country that has become so highly secularised: not least around discerning appropriate ways to share the faith ... the treasure... with which we are entrusted.

Next month the Church Council will be running a retreat day as a prayerful opportunity to stand back and reflect on future priorities for the congregation. Please keep this gathering in your thoughts and prayers.

Paul Stephens (Minister)

Requests and Appeals

Volunteers Needed

More volunteers are needed for Uniting Barwon's Opportunity Shop in Porter Ave, Belmont. It would involve being there at the Op Shop one half day per month. If you are able to help, please see Jean Daw.

From Jean Daw, Mission Outreach Team

Noticeboards

When next you walk into our church hall, why don't you take a look at our notice board which will keep you 'posted' on our current activities, our plans, our visions, our 2017 Annual Report to Church Council, info about Messy Church, info from our Environmental Action Group, stories about Refugees, a focus on Fair-Trade products, our current Pillow Bank April Appeal, and much more.

From Rae Anderson, Mission Outreach Team

Roster Update

Thank you to all those who have indicated their willingness and availability to serve in various areas of Church life at St. Luke's.

If you would like to be a part of any of the Sunday worship rosters listed in the News Sheet please speak to Pam. Extra help means less commitment.

If you are already on a roster and know that you will be unavailable at any time please let Pam know on 0407 557 933 as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help and support.

From Pam Seller, Connections Ministry Team

Prayer requests

St. Luke's is blessed with several avenues for prayer and it is considered our privilege to be asked to pray.

Avenues for prayer include :

Prayer request forms - found in the back of each pew. These can be filled in and placed in the offering bowl, the gold box in the prayer corner or given to Jean Williams following worship.

Prayer corner - found in the north west corner of the sanctuary. This space offers a place for quiet reflection and prayer. Books for Meditation are available in this space.

Prayer partner - an opportunity to pray with the minister or a member of the Pastoral Connections team. Speak to Pam, Beth, Judy or Jenny.

Prayer candles - these are available at the front of the church. Candles represent prayers for people or situations that we care about and they may be lit at any time before, during or after the service.

Prayer link - weekly prayer requests are forwarded to those who have taken on the responsibility of praying when requested.

Prayers can be emailed to Jean Williams at bijl.williams@gmail.com , sent by text message to Jean on 0437 061 690, or phoned to Beth on 5243 6874.

All prayers forwarded to the prayer link team must have the permission of the person being prayed for. Each member of the prayer link has undertaken to respect the confidentiality and privacy of those people making the request.

From Pam Seller



Coming Events

Annual Windfire Music Festival - 10th Year

Mary's Basilica, 136 Yarra Street, Geelong - 4th May, 8pm

Malcolm John & Tom Healy conduct a choir of 200 voices from Geelong churches and community groups supported by Orchestra Geelong. Soloists are Sally Wilson, Lee Abramson and Manfred Pohlenz. All are welcome. Adults \$35, Concession \$30 Students free.

Take a moment to think about coming to Sacrededge - A festival of Spirit and Diversity - May 4-6, Queenscliff.

This unique, inclusive festival, features some of the best musicians and speakers from around the nation. In keeping with this years theme, Glimpse the Gift of Diversity, the performers come from a variety of backgrounds.

Sacrededge is proudly sponsored by Port Philip West Presbytery. Please help us spread the good news of Sacrededge.

For information about the line up check out
<https://www.facebook.com/SacredEdgeFestival>

For line up and tickets: www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au

May at a glance

	Tue 1 May	Wed 2	Thu 3	Fri 4	Sat 5	Sun 6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Men's Shed 9am Men's Shed 3 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Rotary Club of H 6:30pm Welsh Ladies Ch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Let's Make Music - 9am Men's Shed 6 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Let's Make Music - 9:15am Trekkies Study 3 more 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 9:30am Worship
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Geelong Chorale Re 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Men's Shed 9am Men's Shed 3 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Pastoral Connectioi 5:30pm Rotary Club of H 2 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Let's Make Music - 9am Men's Shed 7 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Let's Make Music - 9:15am Trekkies Study 2 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Geelong Repair Cc 12pm Geelong Repair Cc 1pm Festival of music in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 9:30am Worship
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Geelong Chorale Re 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Men's Shed 9am Men's Shed 3 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Welsh Ladies Ch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Let's Make Music - 9am Men's Shed 6 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Let's Make Music - 9:15am Trekkies Study 5 more 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 9:30am Worship 3 more
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Geelong Chorale Re 7pm Church Council 7pm Church Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Men's Shed 9am Men's Shed 3 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm Coffee & Chat 2pm Coffee & Chat 6:30pm Welsh Ladies Ch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Let's Make Music - 9am Men's Shed 7 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Let's Make Music - 9:15am Trekkies Study 9:15am Trekkies Study 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 9:30am Worship 1:30pm Marie Goldswort
28	29	30	31			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Geelong Chorale Re 7:30pm Environment Act 3 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Men's Shed 9am Men's Shed 3 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Welsh Ladies Ch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Let's Make Music - 9am Men's Shed 6 more 			