

# St Luke's Link

## July 2018

St Luke's Environment Action Group  
held a very successful NO WASTE EXPO  
Saturday 2nd June



Welcome to St Luke's Highton's Monthly  
Newsletter for July 2018

We're glad you're here!

# A WORD OF REFLECTION

Last year I read a book by the Canadian theologian Douglas John Hall entitled, *The cross in our context: Jesus and the suffering world*.

As I read this book, I have found myself underlining sentence after sentence. Have you read a book like that, when sentence after sentence contains genuine wisdom?

Hall suggests that over the centuries Western Christianity has been quite adept at discerning “the overarching predicament” of the times and he gives a number of examples<sup>1</sup>. Drawing on the writing of Paul Tillich<sup>2</sup>, Hall suggests that the human predicament in our times should be interpreted in terms of “the anxiety of emptiness and meaninglessness.”

Hall suggests that in our age a core question is “Is life purposeful?” Indeed, “Is there life before death?”

One of my sons said to me recently, following yet another dark event in world history, “Dad I used to think the world was getting better, but I am not sure now.”

Over the years I have served as a minister I have become more and more convinced that one of the treasures we have to offer as church in this age involves sharing and indeed living a message of “hope.” A message of hope that gives meaning to life. A message of hope that is grounded on the steadfast love of God: for God has been revealed in Jesus as sharing in all of life, even its most dark and painful aspects.

As Paul wrote in Romans 8:38-39:

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Paul Stephen — Minister



<sup>1</sup> Douglas John Hall, *The cross in our context: Jesus and the suffering world*. Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2003

<sup>2</sup> Paul Tillich, *The courage to be*, Collins: The Fontana Library, London, 1962, p.48ff.

# JULY FEATURE ARTICLE

## ST LUKE'S ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP

St Luke's Environment Action Group held a very successful NO WASTE EXPO on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Fifteen local groups bumped in with their practical ideas on cutting down on our waste and plastic.

We had over 130 people come through our hall to talk and experience the various workshops from organic waste management to making your own beeswax wraps; from films on waste to an up cycled fashion parade; from remanufacturing to children painting reusable shopping bags made from cotton and so much more.

At the expo we showed extracts from several films including Plastic China and Plastic Ocean. Plastic China is the story of what was happening to our recyclables that went to China - that the sorting was done by hand by poor families in rural china. This resulted in water pollution, litter, poor health and they sorted through all sorts of things that were put into recycling including medical waste and bags with food scraps. Another of the films - plastic ocean - showed the impact of plastic pollution on the ocean, birds and wildlife.

Both movies are available on the internet - either the full length version (for a download fee) or shortened extracts via YouTube.



The children's activities were a great success thanks to Jean. At least 50 children decorated a material shopping bag with NO PLASTIC written on it. As you can see from the photos they had lots of fun and did a fantastic job with their bags.

Continued over page.



Many thanks must go to Ian Lawrence for setting up the audio, battery recycling and his worm farm; to Caspar for screening the films; to Michelle, Ian Allen, Phil and Doug for helping to set up and take down; to Lillian for her wonderful and educational posters and Kathryn for stall minding; to Jean and Allison for their yummy scones and to Iris and Maddy for helping in the kitchen and serving the Devonshire teas; to all those who contributed to the recycled recipes book and Kirby for her continued support and lovely photos.



We received numerous donations at the Expo and have decided to donate part of those donations to Clean Up Australia for their latest campaign in picking up the 'top 5 most hated rubbish' in Australia, which are cigarette butts, plastic straws, takeaway containers, plastic bottles and plastic bags.

Also Ian Lawrence had a couple of people approach him asking why the church is involved in environmental issues. Ian was able to do a wonderful outreach as did the whole of the Expo.

Thanks to all those who attended.

Claire Ziegler—St Luke's Environment Action Group

## SHAWL MINISTRY – bringing comfort, love and prayer support.

The Pastoral Connections Ministry Team at St. Luke's UC Highton, has established a Shawl ministry in the last 12 months, and this has blossomed into an important part of our pastoral care outreach to the congregation and beyond.

The idea stemmed from a pastoral visit to a member of the congregation who had been recently widowed. She showed us a soft, warm, hand-knitted shawl which had been sent from a friend in America. The church where her friend was a member made the shawls for those who were going through difficult, sad or lonely times, as an expression of Christian love and prayer support. We saw how much this lady had been blessed by the gift, and decided to bring the idea to St. Luke's.

After explaining the idea to the congregation, we asked for help with provision of wool or money to buy wool, and invited those who would like to knit or crochet a shawl to be part of this ministry. The response was excellent, and in a short time the number of shawls had grown to over 50. An important part of the gift of a shawl is the accompanying card, explaining that the shawl is a reminder of God's presence and love, and an assurance of prayer.

At each Pastoral Connections meeting, we bring the shawls that have been made in the preceding us to those who would be blessed and comforted by the receiving of a shawl. We have given them to those in hospital, the sick, bereaved, or those in aged care facilities. They are made available to those in the community, given by members of the congregation or pastoral visitors, and have even been sent interstate and overseas.

An added blessing has been the feeling of doing something worthwhile gained by those who have made the shawls, creating beautiful, colourful designs and patterns. One of our shawl-makers refers to her 'Joseph shawls', bringing to mind Joseph's coat of many colours, and she, like others in the congregation, see this as a ministry in which they can make a contribution.



Mary surrounded by  
Prayer Shawls

The Prayer Shawl wording that  
accompanies each shawl  
to its recipient

As this gift for you was created, we prayed for  
you.  
We asked the Lord to give you many blessings of  
courage, strength and comfort.  
May this shawl be a reminder of God's presence,  
and may it be a tangible sign that you are loved.  
Shalom from :  
Pastoral Connections Ministry Team.  
St. Luke's Uniting Church. Highton.

# CONGREGATION NEWS & REPORTS

## Messy Church News

June Messy Church Theme – 'True Family'

June Messy Church explored the theme of: What does it mean to be in the family of the church? based on Matthew 12: 46-50

Activities included:

- ◆ Large drawing of Messy Church family where everyone drew a picture of themselves doing something they enjoyed.
- ◆ Children drew names from a hat and decided if the person was part of Jesus biological family or his spiritual family (or both) ...
- ◆ Paper chain link, which can be seen hanging from the cross at the front of the church
- ◆ Crowns & tiaras, God is king so if we are in God's family we are princes and princesses
- ◆ Family tree, families are all linked together in a family tree
- ◆ Love biscuits, families need to love and support one another
- ◆ Twisted cord bracelet with each colour representing members of our family with a white thread for Jesus.
- ◆ Paul led a bible study group for newcomers to Australia.
- ◆ The ladies knitting group continue with their knitted scarves for the homeless.

After the Celebration Time lead by Paul, over 80 meals of homemade sausage rolls, mashed potatoes and vegetables were served to our hungry Messy Church family!

Next Messy Church: 4.30pm 20<sup>th</sup> July – Theme is 'Discipleship'





## COMING EVENTS

### **Induction of Rev. Will Nicholas —Sunday 15th July**

Commences at 2pm at St Davids Uniting Church, cnr Aphrasia & Talbot Street, Newtown.

Ministers are welcome to robe and wear red stoles as we participate in this significant Presbytery occasion and as we celebrate with the Congregation, Will and his family.

### **Progressive Christian Network of Australia (PCNV) - 20th & 21st July**

The PCNV co-operates with other progressives Christian groups around Australia through the national organisation 'Common Dreams' to sponsor a series of lectures by a distinguished international scholar.

This year Professor Joe Bessler will lead a series of five lectures over Friday evening 20th and Saturday 21st July.

The lectures are titled 'Justice with or without God: The Priorities of Progressive Theology' - How creative shifts in biblical studies, philosophy and Christian thought have launched a new age of progressive theologies through which to reimagine faith and faithful practice.

When: Friday & Saturday 20th & 21st July from 10am to 4pm

Where: Ewing Memorial Centre, cnr Burke Road & Coppin St, Malvern East.

Registration is essential online at <https://joebessler.eventbrite.com.au>

See the noticeboard for more details.

## **Additional Safe Church Training—29th July 2018**

This training is for any appointed leaders and everyone who has a working with children check.

Safe Church Training at 235 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing. Contact Tapu via [reception@hoppersuniting.church](mailto:reception@hoppersuniting.church) for more information and to register your attendance.

## **Bloom Conference — For Women — 3rd & 4th August**

Bloom 2018 — Abundance — A special place for you to come as you are, to be loved, encouraged and released into a new level of abundance in your own life.

The speaker will be Melinda Dwight — Melinda is the National Director of Alpha Australia and previously served as the Senior Pastor of the Imagine network of churches for 15 years.

Sessions start Friday night at 7pm and begin again at 9am Saturday, concluding at 3:15pm.

More info and registrations are online at [www.mbhbc.org.au](http://www.mbhbc.org.au). Cost is \$80 or \$65 concession. Saturday morning tea and lunch are included.

There will be an additional public free session on Saturday night at 7:30pm for all women.

Venue — Moolap & Barrabool Hills Baptist Church 4-32 Province Blvd, Highton

## **THANK YOU**

A big THANK YOU to all contributors to the collection of dictionaries that we now have for the English Class. At the present time we have a sufficient number of dictionaries for the needs for the students so we require no more dictionaries

Jean Daw - Mission Outreach



KIDS CHURCH not on during July but will begin again on the 15th August.

## **Do you need a Name Tag?**

Do you need a Uniting Church Name Tag because you are new or have lost yours? Orders are being accepted in July. Cost is by prepayment of \$9. See Jenny Pooley at church or by calling 5243 4832.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## **Kalkee Op Shop has a new Home!**

Uniting AgeWell's Kalkee Op Shop, which provides valuable funds for aged care services in Geelong, has relocated to a new home after 17 years.

The volunteer-run enterprise closed its doors on its previous location – 50 Francis Street, Belmont – on 15 December last year after the property was sold to developers.

Volunteer coordinator Heather Burger said the sale was a catalyst for bigger and better things for the Kalkee Op Shop.

"Our old site was actually two separate shops next door to each other," she said. "The nature of the site presented staffing issues and it was really ready for demolition. "Now we are all under one roof in a building renovated just for us. We installed a disability ramp and toilet, removed the kitchen of the house and carried out works inside to allow us to neatly display our goods."

Just down the road from the previous site, the new Kalkee Op Shop opened at 93 Francis Street on 5 March. Since reopening, it continued to provide support for older people and the wider community.

Along with funding Uniting AgeWell's falls and balance group and music therapy for clients, op shop proceeds pay for furniture, renovations and other projects.

In the past two years, the op shop has funded the purchase of a special wheel-chair accessible bus for transporting clients, along with two renovations at the Kalkee Community, Nangatta aged care residence.

Volunteer of 10 years, Jann Brearley, said the op shop was there for any community member who needed a hand up. "We work with other charities around Geelong to ensure people in need are looked after," she said. "In conjunction with the Salvation Army, people can come in and get a pair of jeans, shirt and shoes." "We also give a bag of clothes to any of Uniting AgeWell client who needs it."

Jann encouraged locals to support the Kalkee Op Shop and in-turn support vulnerable people in the community.

The shop sells collectables, clothes, kitchenware, small furniture items, books and sundries.

Kalkee Op Shop is open from Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm, and Saturday, 9am to 1pm, at 93 Francis Street. For more information call T: 5241 7098.