

St Luke's Link

October 2018

English classes at St Luke's



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

We're glad you're here!

A WORD OF REFLECTION

A few months ago, the Presbytery hosted a mission learning morning led by Clare Boyd-McRae around the theme of Christian prayer and meditation.

Clare shared at some depth about how her own life journey; and how Christian meditation and prayer has been of great importance in dealing with personal challenges.

She made clear how life-giving for her is a regular practise of being still and waiting on God.

“Being still and waiting” are not things that you hear much about in the media!

Our culture is all about “being on the go” and “doing it now.”

We are bombarded constantly with information and demands for our attention.

Perhaps then it is now surprising that there has been a significant renewal across the different Christian churches of people engaging in quiet prayerful reflection.

One resource for this is “walking the labyrinth” ... which involves simply walking a path set out on the ground (perhaps with some biblical resources) quietly and slowly and being open to God in the process. A labyrinth is not like a maze which is designed to confuse, but rather a clear circular path which leads to its centre and out again.

One of our family’s favourite places is Dunkeld (at the southern end of the Grampians) where there is an arboretum which is the home for a wonderful stone labyrinth with the mountains as a backdrop. We often take the time to walk it or just sit on some of the surrounding stones: being open to the Spirit and the Spirit’s leading and healing.

Paul Stephens — Minister



SEPTEMBER FEATURE ARTICLE

ENGLISH CLASSES AT ST LUKE'S

Term 2 2018 saw the commencement of this new program. Between ten and fifteen adults regularly attended representing the countries of Iran, Iraq, South Sudan and Colombia. They are an enthusiastic group and ably lead by Ms Julie Giles with assistance from Mrs Julie Herd, Ms Helen Brereton and Mrs Jean Daw.

The class is interactive with lots of discussion, verbal practice and pronunciation of Australian English.

Reading, understanding and writing are also covered. The classes may also diversify into areas of learning the participants see themselves needing eg superannuation, retirement, obesity, making appointments, where to go camping, food tasting etc.

Towards the end of Term 3 Julie Giles needed to relinquish her role whereupon Julie Herd and Jean Daw facilitated the final two weeks of the term with help from Mark Herd.

Term 4 will see Mrs Julie Herd as facilitator with her colleague Robyn (ESL qualified) continuing the classes. All participants have been pleased with the structure of the classes and the content delivered.

Having two or more facilitators enables small group activities which is an excellent way of practising conversation.

If you would like to support this great initiative, contact the church office Ph 5244 2997 and we'll put you in touch with our volunteer team leaders.



CONGREGATION NEWS & REPORTS

Messy Church News

September Messy Church Theme was 'Creating & Caring of the wonderful world that God has created for us to live in'.

'God saw all that He had made, and it was good. And there was evening and there was morning—the sixth day' Genesis 1:31.

Our activities were:

- Making recycled animals from plastic and cardboard to make us aware of the variety of animals there are in our world
- Eating Fruit Salad encouraged discussion on where our fruit comes from and what our favourite fruit is
- The Graffiti wall of Green Messages encouraged us to look after our planet
- Making Grass Heads reminded us that God has given us all the seed bearing plants and every tree that has fruit with seed in it
- Potting up tomato seedlings gave us the chance to grow our own food

Thanks to our helpers in the kitchen for our yummy meal of mashed potatoes, mixed vegies and sausages.

Hope to see you there at Messy Church in October!

Jean Daw

Next Messy Church: 4.30pm Friday 19th October

2018

MESSY CHURCH

Friday
4.30 - 7:00pm
15th June
20th July
17th August
21st September
19th October
16th November

A family time for having fun, being creative,
 exploring faith and enjoying a meal together!
 All Ages Welcome!
 Enquiries: Linda 0407 806 312

St Luke's Uniting Church, 174 Barrabool Rd Highton



PASTORAL CONNECTIONS

Sharing Home Communion

During the months of July and August our minister Paul, with the help of Pastoral Connection team members, has conducted several Home Communions.

The concept of home communions can be traced back to the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples, the night before he was crucified.

Josephus, a first century Romano-Jewish historian and scholar, suggests that the now much celebrated last supper was conducted in a home close to Jerusalem.

At St. Luke's, we are privileged to have our own special portable Communion 'kit', made by Men's Shed and protected by a lovely embroidered carry bag, making transport so much easier.

Home Communions are offered to people who are unable to attend Sunday or Mid-week worship services. These people may be ill, confined to their own homes, in assisted living, nursing homes or even hospital.

To be welcomed into homes to share the bread and wine of the Eucharist, followed by fellowship together, is a pastoral opportunity and joy.

For information regarding receiving home communion please call Rev. Paul at St. Luke's office 5244 2997 or Pam on 5243 9575. (Pastoral Connections Team co-ordinator)



PASTORAL CONNECTIONS

Sharing the Journey

This small, but important part of Sunday Worship began when St. Luke's was between

Ministers and has been carried on since. The suggestion was made by visiting Preachers that it would be useful if a member of the Congregation could share with everyone in the telling of events, joys, concerns, and local Church news each Sunday.

In a short timeslot various members offer to lead this segment each week. The Pastoral Connections team are grateful to all those who so willingly volunteer to fill the roster (a month at a time) each year for this valuable service.

If you would like to join the team by helping to lead this segment in 2019, please contact me on 52418447.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Carole Findlay—Pastoral Connections Team.



MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Fair-Trade Products—St Luke's is a Certified Fair-Trade Church

Fair-Trade seeks firstly and foremost to give a fair go to workers and farmers around the world. It stands against lower price pressures from the West that get passed directly onto the bottom of the production chain; the labourers and small scale farmers. The Fair-Trade label guarantees to consumers that their purchases will benefit the producers, their families and the surrounding communities from the developing countries that they originate from.

What does this mean for you and I?

Firstly, St Luke's serves Fair-Trade Tea and Coffee during morning teas and at all church functions. We will learn to look for the certified FAIRTRADE labelling that guarantees a better deal for Third World Producers. We have sold over \$15,000 of Fair-Trade products since 2009.

Look for the Fair-Trade label on products on sale in the Foyer, such as coffee, tea and chocolate to ensure that the benefits really do go back to producers.

Let us pray that we are not satisfied until the products we bring to our table give a better deal, to all who hunger.



MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Micah 6:8 '...to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God'

Buy a pen for St Luke's

Members of the Mission Outreach Ministry Team have \$3 .pens for sale. Every pen is inscribed with St Luke's name on it, and would make a splendid gift for your family and friends.

Rae Anderson – has pens for sale.

The Chapel Room

Changes to storage and distribution of household goods has resulted in a greater turnover of items for needy people. Already this year we have helped more than 125 families with items such as bedding, linen, kitchen cook ware, cutlery and crockery. We continue to supply new pillows (as per health requirements) from your valued support when we hold our Pillow Bank drive every April and November. Approximately 5 pillows per week are placed.

Men's Shed

The number of men participating in the Men's Shed continues to grow with five new members in the past three months.

Some of the men make items for their own use or repair donated items, paint the donated items or just come along for the company and a chat.

We give thanks to families who downsize and who donate unwanted furniture, white goods and tools for repair, repaint or refurbishment to be used by Refugee and Asylum Seeker families.

Ian Allen and Ken Anderson are continually 'on the road' collecting furniture items and then in due course taking them to their new home (see the picture to the right)





ADVANCE NOTICE Garage Sale

The St Luke's Mens Shed will be holding another Garage Sale as part of the
GREAT GARAGE SALE TRAIL

8.00 am, Saturday 20th October.

Individual sites can be arranged through Ian Pooley (5243 4832) @ \$20 per site.

Cake Stall – Joy Hicks (0429 178 973).

Book Stall – Joan & Doug Jackson (5243 2407).

Sausage Sizzle – ?

Plants – Claire Ziegler (0412 904 180).

Paintings – Joan & Doug Jackson (5243 2407).

Furniture – Ken Anderson (0412 118 554), Ken Riddell.

Tools – Ian Pooley & Ian Allen.

Collectibles – Rae Anderson (0413 888 884).

Devonshire Tea – Sue Anderson (0412 081 608).

Items for sale can be collected: Ian Allen (5243 1730).

The people managing the Stalls will be seeking help and they will advertise their needs over the next two weeks.

There is some very good furniture including Antiques, Collectibles, a large range of Books, Records, Paintings (some originals as well as Prints), Plants and Tools available for purchase. Please spread **the word to your neighbours and in any groups to which you belong using this "Flyer" and encourage them to come along.** Additional "A4 Flyers" are available from Ken Anderson.

Ken Anderson

St Luke's Mens Shed



MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Sewing Group

The Sewing Group continues to grow with new participants joining under the leadership of Val England. Some twenty women participate in the Sewing Group which is held every fortnight during the school terms with approximately 10 being in attendance for each group meeting. This group will complete fifteen years of activity in October.

Intentional Cross Cultural Ministry



You will have noticed during recent times that we have had two Bibles carried to the front of the Church at the commencement of worship.

One Bible is the Good News Bible in English and the other has been a Bible in another language. The purpose of this has been to symbolise that we are a cross cultural church that welcomes all people of any ethnicity, age or gender. As part of our worship and life at St Luke's we have consciously resolved to attempt to make everybody welcome by including aspects of their culture, this makes newcomers welcome by making it more easy for them to participate in worship and understand the activity that they are involved in at any given time.

We have recently purchased some additional Bibles in Farsi (Persian) and Arabic to be used during worship in addition to the Dinka and Karen Bibles that we already have. These Bibles are placed in the foyer to be distributed by the Ushers to newcomers for their use in worship.

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning, a prayer station is set up in the worship space for newcomers to access when they seek household goods and furniture. Signage in Farsi (Persian), and Arabic welcomes and invites people to pray in our church.

Bread Collection and Distribution

Every Tuesday evening unsold bread is collected from a Highton bakery and distributed to 30 newcomer families throughout Geelong. The excess bread is taken to Barwon Uniting on a Wednesday morning.

MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Support for a very needy family

At a recent team meeting it was agreed to support a very needy newcomer family from Iraq by way of delivering a family meal each Tuesday night as a part of the Refugee Bread Run.

This family have 2 children, both of whom are profoundly disabled. Just imagine the love, time commitment, stress, feeling alone and pressure that these loving parents experience as they try and cope 24 hours a day.

Tears of hope spill when we deliver the meal. If you would like to go on the casserole roster, kindly give your name to Rae or Sue.

Brief Overview of Newcomers

New refugees continue to arrive in Geelong on a regular basis, some stay, some relocate to other parts of Australia to be close to relatives who have arrived at an earlier time and have already established themselves, or to gain employment.

A major issue for newcomers to Geelong is the lack of employment opportunities whereas employment appears to be much more easily obtained in Melbourne.

Syrian refugees are the main group arriving at the moment plus a number of Asylum Seekers are also relocating to Geelong from the capital cities to comply with the changes in Temporary Protection visas that require them to reside in regional centres to be eligible for new visas.

Rae Anderson—Mission Outreach Ministry Team

Drought Support for Rural Communities

St Luke's Mens Shed have purchased \$800 worth of Gift Vouchers and forwarded them to Pastor David Shrimpton (son of Rae & Keith Shrimpton) who is the Uniting Church Flying Padre based in Broken Hill for distribution to families that he ministers to who have been affected by the drought that is impacting such a huge area of rural Australia.

Ken Anderson, on behalf of St Luke's Mens Shed.





Church Contacts

Position		Name	
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