

St Luke's Link

May 2019

Mission Outreach Report 2018



Welcome to St Luke's Highton's Monthly
Newsletter for May 2019

We're glad you're here!



The Uniting Church in Australia

St Luke's Highton

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@stlukeschurchgeelong

Submissions are welcome and due by 9am on the last Thursday of the month.
Email your contributions to news@stlukesuca.org.au or leave in the church office pigeonhole.

A Word of Reflection

“Valuing everyone’s story.”



One of the privileges of being a minister is listening to people’s stories.

When I was one of the ministers in Bairnsdale, I would visit the local hospital at least once a week as there was no formal chaplain. Many of the people I would visit were not regularly involved in the life of the local church but given an opportunity they would start talking about themselves and their lives.

I heard tales from stockmen ... actual “men from Snowy River”, nurses who had served in Asia during the second world war, divers who had worked on the oil rigs in Bass Strait ...

Quite often the stories would include reflections on the meaning of life and matters of faith.

Even if I was told by someone that they were “not religious,” it was interesting how frequently a person would begin talking about how Psalm 23 or a hymn meant so much to them.

I also recall, of course, stories told by people of deep faith who were very much a

part of the church; people who would say to me that they were nothing special. People who I came to consider very much as “saints” because they had often journeyed through terrible experiences and yet would speak about God’s steadfast presence and peace in it all.

I recently read a short book entitled *The Apostles’ Creed: a guide to the ancient catechism* by Australian theologian Ben Myers. When reflecting on the line in the creed “I believe in ... the communion of saints,” Myers writes about how our individual stories as followers of Jesus are part of a far bigger story, how our stories can be “...tucked into the folds of Jesus’ story.”¹

One of the blessings of being part of a congregation like Saint Luke’s is to have a community within which our stories can be shared, heard and valued!

We are all the richer for the sharing of our experiences ... our stories of the living God.

Grace and Peace,

Paul



Mission Outreach Annual Report 2018

Aim : to develop and maintain effective Christian mission outreach activities in and beyond our local community

Group members take part and are responsible for a range of activities

Rae Anderson: Distribution of material aid for refugees, Trading Table, Christmas Hampers, Fair Trade, Emergency Food Pantry, Pillow Bank, Meal Roster, Prayer Station, Newcomer Bible Reading, Ideas person!

Sue Anderson: Refugee Support, English Conversation Classes , Admin

Stella Cox: Food organisation and preparation

Jean Daw: Repair Cafe, Bread run, Sewing Group, English Classes, Admin

Alison Lyons: Refugee support, food organisation and preparation, Christmas Hampers

Ian Petersen: Men's Shed, Distribution of material aid for refugees, resigned during 2018

Farhad Safarnejad: collection and distribution of material aid, Bread run, Repair Cafe

Iris Speare: Uniting Barwon, Food Preparation, Christmas Hampers

**These people do more than this but this is a precis of their good works – apologies if I've left something out team!

Group Activities

Highlights in no particular order

Bread Delivery:

Baker's Delight Highton continue to generously enable collection of bread from their store on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Mondays - Jean Daw collects the bread with most of it going to Uniting Barwon while Davood (an 'old' new-

comer) distributes to 3 or 4 families. Linda Salamy has helped out with bread collection when Jean has been away,

Tuesdays - 28 families receive bread. Excess is delivered to Uniting Barwon. The list of families evolves and changes due to people relocating to other cities. Farhad Safarnejad, his brother-in-law Mansour, Gara Ana Tolian and Suroor Shaba have all assisted Ken with this collection and delivery. Rae Anderson has also been a regular co driver.

Christmas Hampers

2 delivered to needy families and many more throughout the city of Geelong through Uniting Barwon.

Christmas Luncheon

A very happy and successful time of special fellowship on Christmas Day. The focus was to invite families/ singles/ couples to join us if they were to be alone. About 60 people attended. Food was provided by all to share and was a cultural feast. Singing, dancing, clapping and music were a highlight. Claire Ziegler provided many creative and environmentally friendly decorations for the walls and tables. Well organised Anderson and Stephens. Church Council gave permission for the serving of alcohol.

Distribution of Material Aid

2018 saw a huge demand for aid with many of the newly arrived UN Humanitarian refugee families seeking items. Aid was provided to 145 families including referrals from Uniting Barwon and Barwon Youth Trauma Counselling as well as providing items for use by St John of God Hospital and Lazarus House.

Ethnicities assisted included Afghani, Australian, Congolese, Indian, Iranian, Iraqi, Karen, Karenni, Pakistani, Somalian, Sri Lankan, Sth Sudanese, Syrian and Turkish.

+ Diversitat have been informed that up to 250 new families could be settled in Geelong in the first half of 2019.

We are grateful for the donation of household items and an increasing trend in 2018 was the donation of complete estates of items from homes where people have moved to higher level care.

Letters of thanks

Many letters of thanks have again been written to families for donations of household items in the past 12 months. Thank you Ken Anderson. These items have been repaired and made ready for distribution to refugee families by Men's Shed while kitchenware, bedding etc has been made ready for distribution by Rae Anderson.

Emergency Pantry

We now focus on weekend emergency pantry support. During the week we direct people to Uniting Barwon.

English Speaking Classes

The recommencement of this program occurred in April 2018 with 16 people enrolled. As the year progressed numbers settled to a comfortable 8 - 10. Classes enabled people to practice English conversation, learn and understand Australian English and idioms. Reading, comprehension and writing were also covered. The classes diversified into areas of learning the participants saw themselves needing eg superannuation, retirement, obesity, making appointments, where to go camping, food labels, recycling etc We were lucky to have two great teachers Julie Giles and Julie Herd and a support group of assistants.

Garage Sales

Supporting Men's Shed in providing Devonshire Teas at two of these in 2018.

Soup luncheon

Also supporting Men's Shed

Fair Trade

Funds raised in 2018: \$550.20

Funds raised since 2009: \$17,086.22

General Trading Table

Funds raised in 2018: \$1 553.20

Funds raised since 2009: \$29 786.50

Ceased at the end of 2017. During 2018 'special trading days' often with a theme have occurred. A trading table is still available in the Church foyer on a self service system. Fair-Trade products are available here. St Luke's continues as a designated Fair-Trade Faith

Community with tea and coffee served in our kitchen, Men's Shed and given as gifts to guest speakers at monthly House Church gatherings.

Men's Shed

The Mens Shed meets every Tuesday and Thursday morning and has 54 members of whom 38 are active. Four new members joined in 2018. One long-time member died in December.

Many items of furniture were repaired and refurbished for distribution to Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and referrals from Uniting Barwon. A large number of Memory Boxes were made for Hope Bereavement. David Shrimpton's work, as a Flying Padre with Frontier Services, in supporting families experiencing drought in western NSW was supported with a significant donation. Members repaired and made Items for Highton Pre-school (Larcombe Street), St Luke's Pre-school, Repair Café, St Luke's Church and Highton Girl Guides as well as repairing cots for Geelong Mum's group. The men conducted a monthly Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings and this has enabled significant funds to be raised and used to develop the resources for the Men's Shed. The addition of a verandah on the front of the sheds has made working conditions much more comfortable during both hot and rainy weather.

Pillow Bank Pledges

Commenced in 2017. Strict health regulations on pillows exist so we can only provide new pillows to our refugee and asylum seeker people. April and November are the months where we call for monetary donations. 2018 saw two further collections with many people donating.

The Chapel Room

(replaced the Roslyn Room in 2018) is used for the storage of material aid (linen and kitchenware). More shelving has been added funded by a Bunning's Community Diversitat refers many refugee families per week seeking material aid. At various times the room needs more 'blankets' or 'saucepans' so 'a call' is put out for help. The room is to be open on one Sunday a quarter for the congregation to visit and see what St Luke's provides to those in need.

Prayer Station in Worship Centre

During 2018 a Prayer Station was set up for newcomers to visit when they came to collect goods from the Chapel Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10.30 and 11.30 am. Relevant signage was placed in Farsi, Arabic and English. This space has been appreciated and often used.

Sunday Bible Reading

Roster persons were asked to give newcomer families appropriate language bibles on arrival and to arrange for a family member to take forward a bible with the english language bible/reader. Once a month a newcomer will read the prescribed text while the English translation will be on the screen.

Repair Café

Commenced in August 2017 and continues to be a huge success with an enormous number of articles repaired. Many people from the community have come into our buildings perhaps for the first time.

Sewing Group

Nineteen newcomer ladies participated in the sewing Group in 2018 and it is pleasing to see a number of very recent arrivals from Iraq and Syria participating along with some ladies who have been attending for a number of years. There is a waiting list of women wishing to participate, however the number who can is governed by firstly the space in the Chapel and secondly the seats on the bus. Val England whose efforts are greatly appreciated, continues to Co-ordinate the Tutors and her assistants totalled nine in number during 2018.

Social Issues group (with Belmont UC)

Collection of personal items for homeless people project organised by Western Heights UCA. Money raised by Belmont UCA fete looking to distribute some to Studio 61. (a drug and alcohol shelter for men at Mt Duneed). A women's residence is to be built and some fete money may be used for this also.

Uniting Barwon

Close relationship, some of our group volunteer, we advertise activities as applicable and support in any way we can. We also need the Government to support

Uniting Geelong instead of removing funding. The number of people needing help is certainly NOT dwindling.

Environment Action Group

Under Claire Ziegler's leadership this group has achieved amazing results. Claire's report is a 'stand alone' - please enjoy reading it.

The list of areas in which Mission Outreach is involved are more than have been listed. As I perused the 2018 meetings minutes to write this report I came across involvements I had forgotten. However I will finish here.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to Mission Outreach activities in 2018. There are just so many of you WONDERFUL people. We hope and pray you will be able to continue in whatever way you can in 2019.

We were conscious in 2018 of the need for 'a year of being' given the added responsibilities so many people had shouldered during the previous 12 months. By the look of what we actually did in 2018 I think we forgot that!

Our goals for 2019 are to continue the good works of 2018, question ourselves on how we respond to others, support 'heartbursts' and continue on our journey as disciples of Christ.

Rae, Sue, Stella, Jean, Alison, Farhad,

Iris (and Paul)



Coming up @ St. Luke's

Pentecost Morning Tea—Sunday June 9th

Each year the pastoral Connections Ministry Team provides a special morning tea, A Slice of Pentecost' after the service on Pentecost Sunday, which happens to be June 9th this year.

It has been traditional for members attending the service to wear clothing in the colours of the flames of Pentecost; namely red, orange or yellow. Even a scarf might provide the colour required.

With this in mind, brightly coloured slices, such as red jelly slice, yellow passionfruit slice, cherry slice and lemon slice with orange sprinkles are provided to choose from at Morning tea, which is a pleasant change from the bought biscuits.

Do come along and enjoy this special cuppa and chat.



Mother's Day Activities

Let's think about Mother's Day—12th May 2019

Mother's Day is a celebration honouring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society..... because of this, plans are in hand for holding a Mother's Day Trading Table in the Highton Village.

Saturday 11th May from 8:30

There will be flowers and giftware suitable for that lovely lady in people's lives.

Would you like to support the table by adding a special gift to the table for sale?

Contact Rae Anderson or Mary Rynne for more info.

Mens Shed Election Day Garage Sale

The St Luke's Mens Shed will be holding a Garage Sale commencing 8.00 am, Saturday 18th May

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

Cake Stall – Joy Hicks (0429 178 973).

Book Stall – Terry & Dorothy Ayrton (5243 3467).

Plants – Linda Salamy (0407 806 312).

Paintings – Terry & Dorothy Ayrton (5243 3467).

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

Tools – Ian Pooley & Ian Allen.

Collectibles – Rae Anderson (0413 888 884).

Devonshire Tea – Jean Daw (0490 103 399).

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 the flyer in the Weekly Sheet and encourage them to come along.

Ken Anderson

St Luke's Mens Shed





Observations

An Easter Baptism

Life is full of opportunities and surprises.

On Easter Sunday, Mark and I were enjoying a walk at Eastern Beach, when we observed a small group gathered on the sand, close to the board walk.

The gathering turned out to be a public baptism, by total immersion, of three very new Christians from the Church on The Hill community, who were making their public statement of faith.

The beach service of prayer, song and commitment was witnessed by many of the families sharing a picnic lunch on the lawns.

What a joy to be a part of this special Easter event.



YOU ARE INVITED TO
A VERY SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENT
at St John's Uniting Church
Essendon

Miranda Brockman and **Stephen Newton**
a wonderful Cellist *on the Double Bass*



SUNDAY MAY 19th
5.00pm

Miranda will speak about the power of music to communicate the divine, and she and Stephen will play for us. Invite your friends to come as this promises to be a wonderful concert.

Suggested Donation of \$20
For more information contact

Rev Peter Gador-Whyte – 0417 425 188

Music at the Basilica

Exaudi Choir

11th Annual
Windfire Music Festival
May 10 to 26, 2019

FRANK DE ROSSO - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

featuring The Geelong Chorale • Wendy Grose • Vicki Hallett • Jacqui Dreesens
Max Rudd • Asha Henfry • Exaudi Choir • Mary Doumany • Mark Kruger
Chris Skepper Jazz Quintet • Wendy Rechenberg • Sally Wilson • Tom Healey
Massed choirs of Geelong • Orchestra Geelong • Sonus Wind Quintet
and many more

Mother's Day High Tea with Anna-Lee Robertson and John Shawcross
Vocal Workshop with Geelong Harmony Chorus
Free Lunchtime Organ Recitals

For more information on venues and times
visit www.musicatthebasilica.org.au or phone 0447 238 432
Tickets from www.trybooking.com or at the door

John Bell Visit to Australia



Announcing the visit of John Bell, preacher, hymn writer, composer, lecturer and broadcaster, and member of the Iona Community to Australia and Melbourne this coming May.

John Bell's visit is being sponsored by a number of organisations nationwide, and is bound to attract a lot of interest.

His visit to Victoria is from 11, 12 and 13 May during which time he will take part in conversations on God, Delight and Diversity, Non-Violent Peacemaking, Celtic and Indigenous spirituality.

He will conduct a Quiet Day for ministers and ministry students in the Macedon Ranges, and will deliver a public lecture, Space, Rumour and Hospitality at an inner-city venue still to be confirmed.



A DAY OF CONVERSATION: GOD, DELIGHT AND DIVERSITY, NON-VIOLENT PEACEMAKING

Saturday 11 May 10.00 am-12.30 pm

God, Delight and Diversity Conversation on enabling voices of sexually and gender diverse people

2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Non Violent Peacemaking Conversation on enabling non-violent peacemaking in our communities

St Andrew's Uniting Church 85 Gillies St, Fairfield.

Cost:

\$45/40 single session \$85/75 Whole day Does not include lunch

Cash only on the day

Bookings from 11 Feb 2019

<https://www.trybooking.com/BAPXK>

Contact Rev Alexandra Sangster:

alisangster@gmail.com



SUNDAY AFTERNOON

CONVERSATION

Sunday, 12 May 2019 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Intersections -

Celtic and Indigenous Spirituality

Come and join John Bell in conversation with indigenous man Glenn Loughrey and others about the lessons we can learn at the intersection of Celtic and indigenous spirituality

St Oswald's Anglican Church

100 High Street Glen Iris 3146

Cost: \$30/25 Bookings from 11 Feb 2019

<https://www.trybooking.com/BAPHJ>

Sponsoring Groups St Oswald's Anglican Church, Wellspring Community

Contact:

Rev Alexander Scutt: scuttaj@bigpond.com

0419 501 545

Rev Glenn Loughrey: redshoeswalking@bigpond.com