



February Issue

# HIGH STREET TIMES



**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY**  
– THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT  
**EMBRACING ALL PEOPLE**  
– WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION  
**CONNECTING YOUNGER GENERATIONS**  
– IN GOD'S LOVE



High Street Uniting Church, 16-18 High St Frankston  
[www.frankstonuniting.org.au](http://www.frankstonuniting.org.au)



## FOR OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for David Russell, Audrey La Brooy, Eric McNally, Gwen Taylor, Naomi Briggs, Fiona Jones, Marg Shilton and James Mathews.

The High Street Uniting Church, Frankston community acknowledges the Bunurong people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which the church buildings stand. We remember their ancestors with respect and commit ourselves to work for reconciliation and justice for indigenous people.



**High Street Uniting Church, Frankston**  
**WELCOMES ALL TO**



**PlayGroup!**  
**FRIDAY MORNINGS**  
**9:15am-11:15am**  
 DURING THE SCHOOL TERM

A WELCOMING SPACE FOR BABIES TO PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO SHARE IN PLAY, CRAFT, MUSIC, STORIES & SNACK.

16-18 HIGH STREET, FRANKSTON  
 CONTACT EMMA: 0433667271 OR CHURCH OFFICE: 97833400





## Meet the Ministry Team



Rev David  
Fotheringham

Minister

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Available: Tues-Sun



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& Most Sundays


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Emma  
Lindenburg

Playgroup  
Coordinator

Fri, 9am-11am



Mandy Lake

Monash Uni  
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Half-Time



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## FROM THE MINISTER.....



### From the minister

It feels like the start of a new year! 2019 comes with new opportunities for growing in the way of Jesus, both as individuals and in the life and witness that we share.

**Over Christmas we had some wonderful celebrations of Jesus' birth, including the more reflective late service on Christmas Eve, and at the Family Celebration the fun story of Michael Mouse meeting a whole lot of other animals on their way to see the baby in Bethlehem, but with no gift to give but "himself, for as long as he needs me". (In the case of Michael, he was giving himself to plug a hole in the wall of the stable with his body, to stop a cold draught coming through!) Thank you to everyone who was involved in various ways.**

January has been a time to prepare for ministry and mission in the year ahead, both through the relative quiet of the holiday period and through readings worth reflecting on, following the pattern of Jesus' own life. Two weeks ago the reading was about Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3), at which Jesus is affirmed by the voice from heaven of God's love and pleasure, even before he has "done" anything. This is where *we* begin in understanding God's love for us, too – that "God first loved us." (1 John 4:19). Then, last week's readings (Matthew 4) invite us to consider what "temptations" we respond the most to – basing our egos on what we do or control; or on how other people respond to us; or on having security to protect us from our fears. Jesus meets those temptations and teaches us to know that our identity and hope is secured in God's love. With our lives thus centred in God we can follow God's way into the ministry and mission of the year ahead.

Looking ahead into this year, in late February there will be a fundraising concert for East Timor projects – see page 6. Lent starts late (March 6), so more on that in due course. There will soon be a call for nominations for some new Elders (a few more would be welcome!) in preparation for the AGM on March 17. Also in preparation for the AGM, this edition of High Street Times includes a discussion paper on worship times which you are invited to consider prayerfully.

**Later this year we will hold a Church Picnic on 3 November ("Melbourne Cup Weekend") and we are planning for a Church Camp on 15-17 November. Not everyone will be able to get to both, but hopefully many will be able to share in one or other of those events to enjoy fellowship together.**

Unfortunately Brenda Cooper is concluding her Pastoral Care role with the congregation; **Brenda's ministry, friendship and care has been greatly and widely appreciated, and I'm glad that** she will remain a part of our High Street Uniting community. As her role concludes, it is great to welcome Arthur Poole into the Pastoral Care role on the same kind of 1-day-per-week basis. Arthur is well known among the congregation, and also to me personally – he was my Presbytery Minister when I moved to the Horsham Uniting Church about 15 years ago, so I well know the care and pastoral sensitivity he brings.

**May God's blessings be with us as we move into this year.**

David

# Service Times at High Street Uniting Church

## Discussion Paper, January 2019

**Over the last year, the Elders' attention has been drawn to the fact that an increasing** number of the older members of the congregation find it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to complete the tasks of medication regimes and dressing in time to make it to church at 9am. Some of these now come to the Tuesday communion services every second month, at 11:30am instead. The Church Council talked about this in December, and resolved to raise the matter with the whole congregation through this discussion paper.

In the course of our discussion, it was pointed out that the services have not always been at their current times, and indeed there was a period when the contemporary and traditional services swapped time slots at different times of year.

Some of the issues to be considered are noted below.

The main options are:

- Traditional service at 9:00, Contemporary at 10:40 (as currently)
- Traditional service at 9:30, Contemporary at 11:00
- Contemporary at 9:30, Traditional at 11:00
- Contemporary at 9:00, Traditional at 10:40

A fifth option would be to have combined services at 10:00 throughout the year. Anecdotal feedback is that while many people appreciate having combined services from time to time, most prefer the variety and the difference that the two services provide.

The issues involved include:

- Being late enough for those who have trouble with early starts (old or young)
- Being early enough for people to get to other activities on Sundays
- Encouraging mixing over morning tea; if the Traditional service was second, encouraging starting with morning tea before the service
- Car parking management
- Volunteers to help clean/prepare the church between services

Over the next month, we would like to encourage prayerful reflection by individuals and groups as to how we can best worship, witness and serve together through the shape of our Sunday mornings.

Our aim is to reduce the possible options to the best two, to be ultimately decided upon at the Annual General Meeting of the congregation on 17 March. Could you and your interested groups please consider which two options the whole congregation should have the opportunity to choose between at the AGM, and provide feedback to the Church Council Executive (Ross Huggard, Kerry Pederick, Keith Holmes and David Fotheringham).

We could anticipate putting any changes in place after the combined service on Easter Sunday (which is the beginning of second term, for those who follow school dates).

David Fotheringham  
Minister

Ross Huggard  
Church Council Chairperson



HIGH STREET  
UNITING CHURCH  
PRESENTS

# EAST TIMOR FUNDRAISER CONCERT

Supporting Individuals.

Families & Fair Trade

**SATURDAY 23RD FEBRUARY, 2019**

**2PM – AFTERNOON TEA INCLUDED**

**16-18 HIGH ST, FRANKSTON**



Featuring "Liminality"

"our music dwells on the Celtic threshold and exists in the space of the in-between. We have developed both our traditional Celtic and European influences and brought the tunes to life with the addition of Keyboard and vocals by Jules Vines to the seasoned music of Greg Hunt on 5 String Violin, Mandolin and Cello and Cath Connolly on the Celtic Harp."

**Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$15 Concession  
& Children over 14**

**Tickets for purchase at High Street Uniting  
Church Office or at the door on the day of  
the Concert.**

**Fair Trade goods will be on sale on the day.**

## With Support Acts



Mike & The Stands

Mike and the Stands have been together in various forms for around 15 years. Now with a solid line up of 3 singers, drums, bass, lead and 2 rhythm guitars, they play a wide variety of covers with great lead breaks and harmonies.



Cadence

Cadence is a group of six friends, most of who reside on the Mornington Peninsula. Their wide repertoire is based around the songs of the 60's and 70's and some present day ballads, sensitively accompanied by guitars, bass, violin, ukelele, keyboard and gentle percussion. They specialise in multi-part harmony.



# About the East Timor Projects

After realising how lucky I am to live in Australia and my relative wealth, I started off supporting Zely, a single mum whom I'd met during my first visit to East Timor in 2010. For 3 years I gave her a small monthly allowance so she could care for herself and her child. Her parents had died years before leaving her and her 5 siblings to look after themselves. Since that time, my friends have helped with financial and material support for a number of individuals. For 4 years we provided a living allowance and laptop for Rocky (Zely's brother) who has become a police officer and is now independent. We provided equipment to Teresinha who heads up an English Language Study Centre in Railaco. We have also supported Cornelio who is the director of 4 schools with a laptop and a starting grant for the English scholarship program he was trying to establish. We are now supporting Minda with a laptop as she studies biological science. It is wonderful to be able to make a small but significant difference to the lives of some deserving people.

Tim Lake

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We go to East Timor to help provide water supplies to villages, about one village every year. And when the villages have water their next need is toilets. It is not possible to have safe clean toilets until they have water so there are very few

A basic toilet, built by the villagers from local materials, and supervised by a local engineer will cost about \$70US, (\$100AUS), per toilet. We just provide the materials.

Of the seven villages that now have our water, only two have also toilets for all of the 60 or so houses in the village. "Sammy Stamp" paid for the toilets for one village.

We would love to provide more, but water supply (and student houses) is our priority. But any extra funds we have can go to toilets.

John and Marion Coulson

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Since fundraising for Timor Leste from 1997 to the present day, I have fallen in love with the Timorese people and feel for their plight. This developing country has survived 500 years of neglect and more recent destruction. Even with my own limited resources, it is not hard to make a difference to many lives in a land where a family can be fed for \$1 a day. My method is to train, up-skill and resource women and vulnerable youth to develop small enterprises. This can develop into a sustainable regular income. To add more enterprises can cost from \$1000-\$10,000, and there is a queue of applications for these opportunities. I have sold fair trade handcrafts in pop up shops and markets, started a fair trade website and shop in 650 High st East Kew. For every sale, 100% of the money is returned to the makers.

Come along and support fair trade enterprises and see some great traditional textiles.

Thx, Jill Forsyth

# REUNIONS

By Bill Pugh



There are many reasons to remember and celebrate. Sometimes the purpose is lost. Too much food and drink. Silly behaviour by affected people, not in their right mind. Birthdays and Christmas dinners are wonderful family reunions. Sometimes there is a loved one absent around the Christmas Table and we feel a little sad. But they would want us to have a happy family time get together. The celebration of the Lord's Supper is a reunion. Gathered around the Holy Table, with

simple fare of bread and wine, we celebrate his life death and resurrection of our Lord together as a Church family. DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, He said to his friends.

Each time we partake of the Lord's Supper we look forward to the greatest Reunion of all –the Banquet of Heaven. To which all are summoned. A wonderful reunion. And we shall feast there with all our loved ones who have gone before us. "Those whom we have loved and lost awhile".

## *Reflection:*

*Horatius Bonar encourages us to look forward to that reunion thus, as we sing these most beautiful words of Faith,  
Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
yet passing ,points to that glad feast above,  
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.*





WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2019

# SLOVENIA

'Come - Everything is Ready'

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HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH  
16-18 HIGH ST, FRANKSTON  
FRIDAY MARCH 1ST, 2019  
10:30AM - MORNING TEA  
11:00AM - SERVICE

Since 1887, on or near the first Friday in March every year, millions of Christians have gathered worldwide to pray for the issues of family violence, child abuse, human trafficking, and other forms of injustice.

In 2019 that prayerful support will be directed at the approximate 2,000,000 inhabitants of the Republic of Slovenia. After declaring its independence from Yugoslavia on June 27th, 1991, Slovenia has continued to be the wealthiest and most politically open country of the former Yugoslav republics.

"Come - Everything is Ready" is the theme for 2019 and is based on the passage from Luke 14:15-24. At the core of the theme, an invitation - Come; and to enable the response - Everything is ready. Come to praise, thank, and proclaim the kingdom of love.



**"Old's Cool"**

**"You won't be Bored"**

**Board  
Games!!  
Feb 26 -  
3:30pm**

**Old school  
party  
games  
Feb 10 -  
3:30pm**

**EMPOWER!!**

*The new Youth Group!*



*Term 1 Dates*

**"Bowl Me Over"**

**Strike Bowling Frankston  
March 10TH - 3:30pm**

**"Drama,  
Drama,  
Drama"**

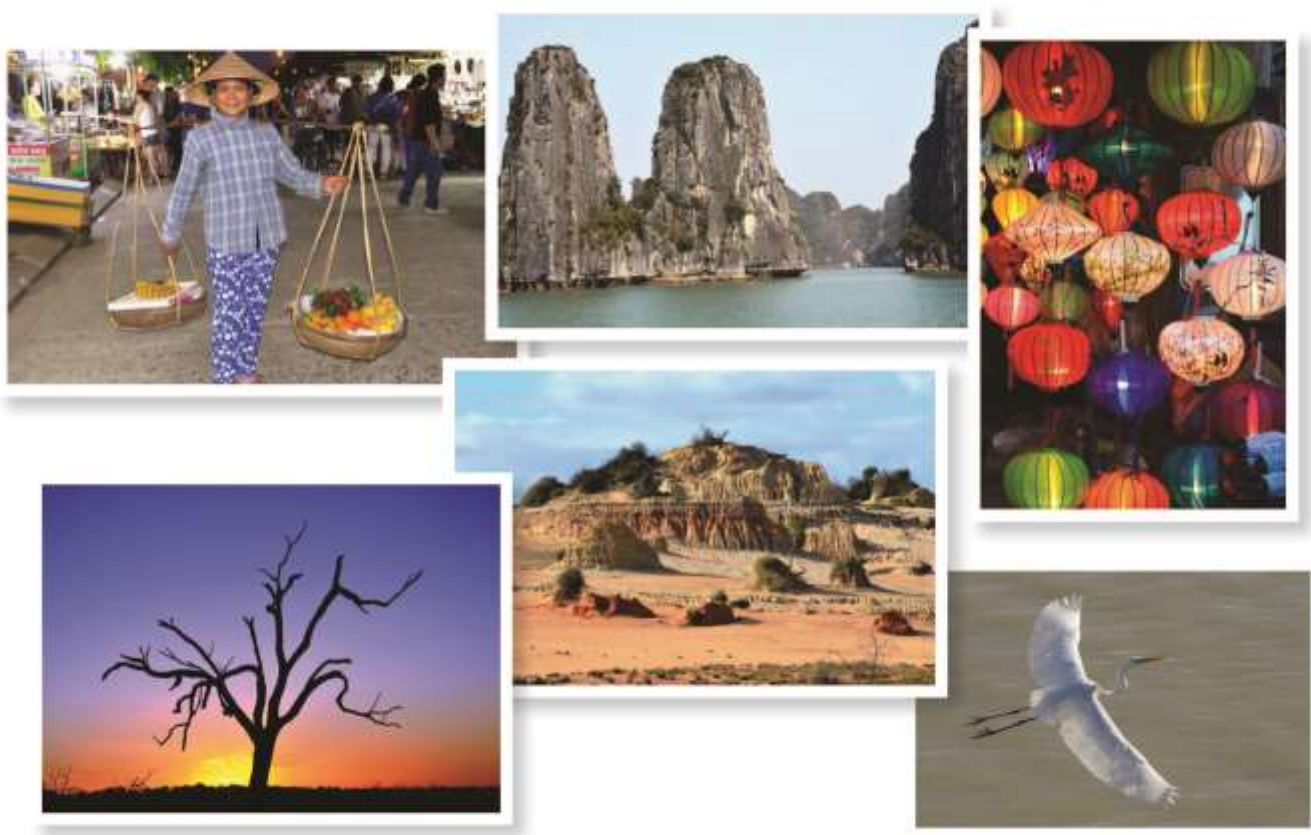
**Play & Puppets  
March 24th - 3:30pm**

SAVE THE DATE: "YOUTH TAKE OVER" CONTEMPORARY SERVICE  
SUNDAY 10:40AM, MARCH 31ST 2019



# **ARMCHAIR TRAVELS EVENING**

## **Broken Hill, Menindee Lakes & Vietnam**



**What:** via Alan Mathews' photography, we will travel to Vietnam and the beautiful outback around Broken Hill and Menindee Lakes.

**When:** Sunday, 3rd February, 2019 from 5.00-6.30pm  
Followed by a Bring a Plate Shared Supper  
at High Street Uniting Church, 16-18 High St, Frankston.

Tickets: **only \$10**

Available from **High Street Uniting Church office** or  
alan.mathews47@bigpond.com - 0488 130747  
helen.beeby@gmail.com - 0434 412104

A framed photo from Alan's collection will be raffled.

**Why:** Proceeds to the Woman & Child Health Clinics  
Project in North India

Visit [www.womandchildhealth.org](http://www.womandchildhealth.org) for more information.

# Church Council News

Over recent months, Church Council has been overseeing a number of important elements of our High Street UC operations. We are most conscious that all we do and focus upon is intended to both support all we undertake as a congregation, as well as proactively supporting our wider mission within the Frankston community. At our most recent meeting, the final one for 2018, on 11 December it was recognised that we needed to convey some important aspects of our work on your behalf to you at this time. This report is intended to clarify some of these actions and plans.

## New locks and maintenance

We are most fortunate to have the expert services of Murray Burdett overseeing the diverse, ongoing maintenance needs of our much-used buildings and property. He is constantly planning and directing all manner of projects intended to prolong the usability of our suite of buildings. Most recently, all locks have been changed so as to enhance security, as well as to upgrade them. Over January, the asphalt driveway on the sea-side of the church will be resealed. We also need to plan for the costly, but essential, replacement of the roof in the halls and many windows. Church Council, with the financial expertise of Keith Holmes, our Treasurer, is working towards this end result.

## Pastoral Care Assistant

It is with great regret that Church Council received the resignation of Rev Brenda Cooper from the Pastoral Care role for health reasons. She has executed this key role with much compassion and nurturing and many of you have directly benefitted. We have been much blessed by her work among us and are delighted that she will remain in our midst, both as a choir member and periodic preacher.

It is with great delight, however, that Church Council unanimously endorsed **Brenda's replacement, Rev Arthur Poole, who will be inducted into this role in February 2019.** This will continue to be a one a day week 0.2 position.

## Planning for 2019

Church Council endorsed a calendar of events for 2019, including a decision to move the Food Fair to 6 December. These dates will be circulated in the New Year.

In addition, considerable discussion took place about reviewing our timing for services in 2019, acknowledging that for some people, the current arrangements may preclude them from being regular attendees. As a result, we will be developing a discussion paper for your consideration, as a prelude to voting on two potential options at the Annual General Meeting on 17 March.



## Financial challenges

**Whilst under Keith's watchful eye, our finances are healthy and our situation in the short-term is comforting,** it is also recognised that future challenges exist, just as experienced in many churches today. If our planned giving continues to trend downwards, funding for programs and outreach will need to be cut in the future. It was also noted that the 30 year lease by the Brotherhood of St Laurence of the former Wesley property, allows for the organisation to purchase the property after 20 years have elapsed, in 2023. Were this to occur, this would significantly impact on our financial situation and could provide us with a significant boost.

**As a congregation, with a commitment to 'strengthening community', we are** committed to supporting outreach within our local community, as is readily apparent on our support for Operation Larder. Church Council received a request for funding for the revamped Community Breakfast outreach initiative. Happily, we agreed to redirect \$1,000 from previously allocated funds for Operation Larder, following their recent \$10,000 grant from the Collier Foundation.

Ross Huggard, *Chairperson*

## LETTER RECEIVED FROM MARGARET SHILTON:

Dear friends,

I will be leaving you all due to worsening health issues and need to say how much I have welcomed your prayers and support.

I will be going to live over at Ocean Grove to be near my daughter - I will be going to a nursing home and will let you know the address as soon as I can.

When Neil and I came to Frankston we were welcomed with open arms and we felt at home among friends. Thank you for accepting us readily.

I will not see many of you again which is sad but it is a fact of life. I hope you enjoy the upright Piano in the Chapel - it was Neil's mother's Piano brought out from England.

Please pray for me at this transition phase of my life, it's hard having your possessions and home sold by your children.

If any of you would like a day out, I would welcome a visit. I will try and make contact with the Ocean Grove Church as church is very important in my life.

Thank you most sincerely for all your help, and encouragement for both Neil and myself, you are all my good friends and I will miss you all more than I can say. Things change and we must accept changes in our lives, good or bad, it is all up to God and our faith.

Your friend in Christ,

Margaret Shilton

# UPDATE ON EAST TIMOR PROJECTS

From Marion & John Coulson

We went back to East Timor last year for ten days and as usual it was busy, and a mixture of frustrating, very rewarding, and sometimes inspiring experiences

We arrived to have the computers we had brought impounded, to find the drainage from the house was not working, nor the house water supply, ("No worries" - they are used to such things and don't fix them), the printers had stopped working, the villagers were not paying the maintenance man, and various people were coming out of the woodwork wanting our financial help.

But three of our first four students are now in their final year of university and doing work experience, and they are inspiring.

Candida, who had no parents, came to the student house four years ago with top marks and entry into the best university, (doing finance), but was so tiny, looking as if she had never had enough to eat and always looking so sad. We were very worried about her.

But we were at our house one evening recently when she came home from her work experience, working in the finance department of the Government. And she arrived back at the student house in her high heels and a very smart jacket looking the perfect business woman and looking so happy. And she was loving the work. And as soon as she got home she went in to supervise the dinner preparation as we were staying for dinner.

And Januario was the wild boy from our village. We didn't think he would cope with university. But he has now nearly finished his degree in administration. His university couldn't find him work experience, but he found it himself, in a big town up in the mountains. And he is unrecognisable as the perfect administrator in his work blazer and doing exceedingly well.

All the others are doing well, and are so hard working, and appreciative and look after each other very well.

We get to know them through our games of "Rummikub" and we have been doing English classes with them, both of which are a lot of fun. We had employed an English lecturer to teach them English but he was not very good. We are now trying two young students who have good English. But it is really good that we are now able to communicate directly with them, with some effort on both sides.

Up in the mountains the rains are better this year but we were persuaded to go to village down the road towards Hatulea from what we think of as our village, where we were told that they were desperate for water. We had a meeting there and the men said "We will have no water before the end of the dry season and people will die. It is urgent, please help!"







We said we thought we could and John and Sabino (our young engineer) went for a walk in the jungle to have a look and discovered that there had been a water supply once, there was a dam and an outlet and some taps but the pipes were broken and there were a lot of new houses which never had water. So we were very glad to find the cost for quite a big village (1000 or so people) was not nearly as expensive as we had expected.

And this time, after talking to some Rotarian friends in Dili, we decided to get everyone who wanted water to sign an agreement that they would help with the work and then contribute to the maintenance of the scheme. And Sabino tells us that work is now underway.

We again stayed in our village with Martino, the headmaster. He invited several of the ladies to come down to his house and we presented them with the new sewing machine and the materials and cottons sent by the Mission Guild ladies. Being a new machine there was much excitement opening it. And one older lady said she knew how to use it.

But then big troubles! No one could work out how to set it up. Finally John said "How about we read the instructions!" And that worked, many smiles and much relief.

We had taken 14 quite old laptop computers given to us by Mt Eliza secondary College and Mt Erin College, but were greeted at the airport on landing by about eight fierce looking customs officials. They said "Show us the invoices so you can pay customs on these." We said "They are gifts – no invoices." Much disputation, then Sabino who had met us, said if we officially give them to the NGO he works for there will be no customs.

But it took ten days of lengthy visits to the customs office, much paper work, and we think a gift to the customs officer from Sabino, to have them released. That is East Timor we are afraid. But now all our students again have working computers, much needed, and we have replaced the printers that have stopped working.

Since we have come home we have heard that our good little rented house near the Plaza has been sold and we have had to move our students to a house further out. But we think they will enjoy being closer to the country and it is still on a good bus route. We would really like to build another permanent house if we could find some good land. Probably a priority, but it is getting more expensive.

We need to offer accommodation in our house to another girl this year, we have a spare bed. (Cost about \$500AUS a year for food and university fees if she can get into the National university). And the rent on our second house is going up as Dili accommodation is getting more sought after. And it would be lovely to be able to help another village to build toilets, (at \$100AUS per toilet.)

We are very grateful to Bronwen for her concert to raise money to help with these things and to the encouragement and gifts to help from you people.

John and Marion Coulson





WALKIE TALKIES....

A VIBRANT AND DIVERSE GROUP



Walks are every Tuesday and Thursday 8am  
All are welcome!  
Contact the church office for a timetable.



HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH



2018 Christmas Bowl Appeal

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT VOLUNTEERED!!