

February 2022

HIGH STREET TIMES

Connecting Younger Generations IN GOD'S LOVE
Embracing All People WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION
Strengthening Community THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT



HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH,
16-18 HIGH STREET, FRANKSTON



MINISTER: Rev David Fotheringham (0407 861 092)
MONASH UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN/

PASTORAL CARE: Mandy Lake

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Esther Galvin

HIGH ST TIMES Editor: John Annable

CHURCH PH: 9783 3400

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Mon – Fri 9:30 am – 12:30pm

WEB: www.frankstonuniting.org.au

EMAIL: frankstonuc@gmail.com



We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather: the Bunarong people and we pay respect to their past present and emerging elders and their ancestors.





LADDERS AT CHURCH

Please note that **no person may use a ladder at the church** for any maintenance or cleaning **without coordination with the Management Committee**. We have had incidents in the past and cannot afford the risks.



FLOWERS

Many thanks to those who donate flowers for the church, and to those who arrange them – even for those who see them over zoom rather than face-to-face, they provide a beautiful setting and offering for worship.

WORSHIP ON ZOOM AND PHONES

All services will be available for participation through Zoom and phones using the following links:

Phone: **(03) 7018 2005**

Meeting ID: **954 6849 3260** Password: 3199

On zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/95468493260>, password 3199



COVID REQUIREMENTS

We are committed to providing a covid-safe environment and caring for the most vulnerable in the community. The current requirements for all groups using our facilities are:

EVERYONE: Face masks are required indoors, as per government regulations. No-one who has cold/flu symptoms or who is required to be isolated may enter the buildings. Please inform the office if anyone has attended the buildings while potentially infectious. Everyone must check-in using the QR code at the door. Please allow for good ventilation during any group meetings.

ESSENTIAL SUPPORT GROUPS (such as AA, GA, AlAnon, etc) do not need to check vaccination status of attendees so long as the size of the groups is limited to no more than 1 person per 4 square metres (Blue Room – 12 people; Green Room – 11 people; Back Hall – 20 people; Main Hall – 30 people).

ALL OTHER REGULAR GROUPS are restricted to those who are **fully vaccinated** only. Everyone must check in and have their vaccination status checked by a designated person (the 'Covid Marshall') in each group.

SUNDAY WORSHIP. Vaccination status does not need to be checked. We are encouraging as many as possible to join via Zoom/phones to minimize the numbers in the church.

NOTE: Up-to-date requirements for groups using the church can be found on the COVID tab on our website, <https://www.frankstonuniting.org.au/> Check there for any updates.

FROM THE MINISTER



SPIRITUAL AND PRACTICAL

Sometimes people draw distinctions between ‘spiritual’ and ‘practical’ activities. At one level the distinction is reasonable; but as we hear in New Testament letters like James, “show me a person with a relationship with the living God and I’ll show you a person who brings good and blessing to those around them.” (*Paraphrased*)

This year our gospel readings come from Luke’s gospel. Luke is very clear about the activity of the Holy Spirit, guiding and empowering Jesus’ ministry and prayer, and the very practical direction of God’s care for the poor, the hungry, and the weeping.

In Luke’s gospel, very early in his ministry Jesus goes to the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth (Luke 4:1-19). He quotes from Isaiah that “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” The Holy Spirit is behind this proclamation.

The idea of seeing *this year* as “the year of the Lord’s favour” might inspire our thinking for the year ahead. We are longing for the challenges of COVID to recede, and as they do, we can look for the ways in which God is calling us anew.

The “year of the Lord’s favour” could also be a reference to the Old Testament ideal of the Year of Jubilee (see Leviticus 25). Every 50th year (after 7 lots of 7 years) there was to be a Jubilee year, in which there is to be a ‘rebalancing’ of landholding and freedom, so that all of the community could experience restoration. It could also refer to ‘rebalancing’ our approach to ministry and mission as we, and the community around us, emerge from lockdowns and deal with other changes that lie ahead.

As we pray that this will be a year of the Lord’s favour, we can expect it to bring both opportunities and challenges. We pray for the Spirit’s leading and for the practical directions that will bring. May we be inspired by Jesus’ spiritual and practical life, and our vision of connecting with younger generations, embracing all people and strengthening community in the grace and love of God.

David



Don't Forget to use our website for Service reflection in text,
Rosters & Worship Resources etc.
<https://www.frankstonuniting.org.au/>



Each month, High Street Times publishes the names of some of the people who are associated with our congregation, but who find it difficult or are not able to attend on Sunday mornings.

We particularly include in our prayers:

Shiela Knoop, Barbara O'Malley, Gwen Paxino, Audrey Smith, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Fay Dungey, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Eileen McCarty, Molly Maughan, Pat Johnson, Margaret Snyder, Beth McNamara, Effie Tilley, Ruth Poole and Barbara Trewartha.

Pray for Michelle, daughter of Marilyn and Robert Downing

Pray for Neville Parker, Kerrin Hill, Barbara O'Malley, Julie Holmes

Pray for those who are awaiting surgery, and those who are recuperating

Pray for those who are sick with COVID, and for those who are impacted by hospital demand.

Pray for all who struggle with mental health at this time

Pray for those who are isolated, including residents of care facilities

Pray for frontline health workers

Pray for the people of Tonga

Pray for those around Frankston who experience homelessness.

Pray for those who are displaced from or within Afghanistan

Pray for our governments

Pray for our church, for our ministry and care with each other, young and old, and for the whole community that we serve in the love of God. Pray for the Joint Nominating Committee, and all those who support the church in ministry and mission.

The prayer chain regularly and continuously keeps particular needs in prayer. You can ask for prayers through the prayer chain by contacting Marlene, phone 5971 2840 or emailing directly to HSUCPrayer@googlegroups.com



Dear High Street Friends,

Once more, it is my great pleasure to update you about matters on which your Church Council were focusing in late 2021 and to pre-empt that which we will be considering in early 2022. We can only hope and pray that 2022 will be a much more predictable and less COVID-centred year, but the latest Omicron variant continues to generate much concern.



Imminent sale of the former Wesley church site (24-26 High Street): outlining the situation

Many of you will recall the merging of the two formerly independent Uniting Church congregations in High Street: St Andrew's and Wesley which began with conversations in 1996. This was a very carefully considered process, with much consultation and planning involved. Allied to this complex and multi-faceted process, which the two congregations instigated, in 2001 there was an approach made by the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) to potentially lease the soon to be vacated Wesley site. Negotiations commenced and Synod legal advice was sought to draw up a suitable lease with the BSL. This lease was ultimately signed in May 2003, with a 30-year maximum time period, and an option for the BSL to potentially purchase the property after 20 years.

Thanks to the careful and meticulous planning and oversight by our indefatigable Treasurer, Keith Holmes, both the major loan taken out to redevelop our current church site, as well as the loan to largely pay for the retiling of our church roof, have been largely paid off from the rental income accrued from the lease of the Wesley site by the BSL since 2003. Keith has also ensured that a small residual has been retained in a Church Maintenance account.

Given the considerable value of the property (over \$3M), Synod determined that it would assume control of any property sale and the distribution of the funds from its sale. This is in keeping with its standard processes. As a congregation, we were not consulted when the decision was made by Synod Property Services to agree to an early request to sell the former Wesley site in late 2021. Rather, we were informed, as a Church Council in a report, on 14 December last year, that this would occur.



Of equal importance, was the information contained in that official report concerning the proportion of funds which our congregation would potentially receive from the overall sale. Indeed, it is the unanimous view of your Church Council that the formula being proposed is manifestly unjust. To that end, on 20 December last, Church Council held an extraordinary meeting and determined that a detailed letter be written and sent to the Moderator and General Secretary of Synod,

requesting a face-to-face meeting in our church in early 2022. This letter was lodged before Christmas and we are awaiting a response.

Please rest assured that we will continue to actively pursue this matter to hopefully ensure a more favourable financial outcome for our church, which will enable our missional work through redeveloped and renewed rear buildings to become a reality, reflecting the extensive plans drawn up by Murray Burdett several years ago.

Joint Nominating Committee

As you should hopefully be well aware, the congregation previously unanimously endorsed the recommended composition of its representatives on the Joint Nominating Committee: Karin Jooste, Jen Johnson, Ross Huggard, Rowena Quintanilla, Meg Ryan and Tim Lake. This group will oversee the steps associated with the selection of a recommended Minister of the Word to replace Rev David Fotheringham, who will finish his time with us in May this year before moving to his next important role as the incumbent Moderator. Under the chairing of Rev Joy Blamires (Minister: St Mark's, Mornington) several meetings have now been held.

It was most helpful and reassuring to receive over 80 submissions to the Congregational Survey which was conducted in early December. This data has been closely analysed and reflected upon in the process of finalising the Placement Profile.

The final version will be presented to Church Council for its potential endorsement early in 2022. Once approved, this will then be sent to the Presbytery and Synod for approval.

Clearly, this process is a most important one, requiring close adherence to the specified Synod steps. Rest assured that this will be followed rigorously as we all work towards hopefully selecting the most suitable minister to lead our congregation into the future with optimism.

Property for Mission process

We have received information from the Presbytery Property Committee concerning the need to undertake a detailed study of our missional needs with respect to buildings so as to complete a Property for Mission Workbook. We have indicated that we would welcome the support of an appropriately skilled person, as offered, to undertake this important but complex process, hopefully in the first half of 2022. We will update you further once the process has commenced.

Replacing our Church Office Administrator

Following the departure of our former Office Administrator, Jacqui Harris, in November, Church Council sought to review and redevelop the position description for the important support role of Church Office Administrator (formerly known as the Church Office Secretary). The appointed Selection Panel considered the applications and shortlisted applicants, and after interviews in late December, determined that this role would be performed by Esther Galvin. She has commenced in the position and we are confident will bring a warm and caring demeanour, as well as a high level of diverse key administrative skills to this important role.

Ross Huggard, Chairperson



The Last Word: from your pastoral worker!!

Dear Frankston friends,

When I retired from full-time ministry nearly eight years ago, my wish was not to completely retire, but to step back from the responsibilities of full-time ministry, and find ways in which to serve the church, as suited my 'gifts and graces' (whatever they may be).

In the beginning those opportunities came from Mornington and Hampton UC's, and finally from Frankston when Ross Huggard rang one day to ask if I could help with 'supply ministry' following Robert Johnson's retirement. I enjoyed telling people that I'd taken Robert Johnson's place (rubbish of course!), but it was a pleasure to work with Jay for that 12 months or thereabouts as you sought a minister. I remember sitting with Jay at the Congregational meeting when David's name was presented, and Jay and I wanted to each put up two hands. (Of course, we could do neither!!)

It has been a lovely retirement here at Frankston, taking services from time to time, and being your pastoral worker. Being part of David's congregation has been a lovely way of tapering off my ministry. We go back a long way, to my Ocean Grove days, where he, as a student, helped me with Barwon Heads, to now, being part of the community, which will lose him, so that he can serve the church as Moderator.

Everything has its season...it is time for me to step back and pass the baton. And, of course I'm not going anywhere, I will remain here as your friend. I am even hoping we may still have coffee mornings, except they'll be monthly, not weekly, perhaps 'First Tuesday coffee mornings', but we'll pause for now to see how this Covid thing pans out. So, thank you all for making me feel welcome and occasionally useful. I value being part of a Christian community.



Thanks be to God. Brenda



MONASH UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

My fingers are crossed for a smooth start to Semester 1 this year, hopefully without many of the restrictions due to COVID which affected Semester 2 last year!

Of course, back then we were in lockdown, and I was working from home, and again found that it was reasonably quiet in terms of new referrals coming through, as so much of my work is generated from being on campus and having face to face contact with students and staff. I was, however, still able to carry out some good work with students and staff I was already in contact with.

This included:

- Keeping in touch with around 20 students through Facebook and Email, checking in with how they are managing and coping.
- Zoom and phone appointments with a small group of students.
- Human Book Library – talking with about 20 Occupational Therapy students.
- Obtaining some Coles vouchers to distribute to students who are struggling financially, in conjunction with the International Students' staff member at Peninsula.
- Organising additional financial assistance for a particular student in very difficult circumstances in liaison with the Student Union.
- Attending campus network meetings and keeping abreast of campus happenings.

I also spent some time making pastoral care phone calls for our church and studying a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course. (CPE provides training in the practice of pastoral care through an experiential education process. It is recognised as a tertiary-level subject within a theology degree.) I really enjoyed this and found it very worthwhile.

Plans have been underway for some time for a more “normal” orientation and Semester 1 and let's hope that these come to fruition given what is currently happening all around us! I'm very much looking forward to connecting with staff and students again, providing all goes well.

PASTORAL CARE

I am so pleased to be offered the opportunity to do some pastoral care work for our church, from February, for one day per week. Brenda Cooper has been in this role and is finishing up her work at the end of January. It will be hard to fill Brenda's shoes, but I'm really looking forward to it, as it's work that I love and am passionate about. I'm also very happy to serve in this church with its wonderful people. Please feel free to contact me on 0438 715 029 for any pastoral care needs.

Mandy Lake



Summarised Statement of Income/ Expenditure for 12 Months to 31st Dec 2021

INCOME	Budget		Actual	
Planned Giving/Open Plate		120000		121513
Rental Income - High St & Ma		40000		29370
Donations		1500		0
Donations: Children's Outrea		500		930
Reimbursements/Miscellane		5000		7929
Goods and Services Tax				7581
Fete		12000		6401
Interest - Cash Management		1000		872
GST Reimbursement MBA		2000		1345
Atkinson Foundation Income		1500		1768
Guest Foundation Income		1500		1936
Bomar Grant		91000		73673
Transfer from Wesley Lease		56000		44341
JobKeeper Payments		25000		37591
Transfer from Employment F		20000		5044
Unit Price Adjustment				258
TOTAL INCOME		377000		340552
EXPENDITURE				
Ministerial Costs		229000		204751
Administration Costs		49000		39647
Planned Giving Expenses		1000		415
Property Costs:				
Fire Brigade Levy	500		280	
Cleaning/Maintenance	30000		16945	
Rates: Council/Water	4500		3144	
Gas/Electricity	8000	43000	4820	25189
Insurance		8000		9855
Sunday School/Children's O		1000		587
Organ/Choir/Copyright		2000		1636
Goods and Services Tax				5644
Miscellaneous		10000		11456
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		343000		299180
Outreach:				
Mission and Service Fund	32400		32357	
Tom Sutherland	500		500	
Community Support	1500	34400	1693	34550
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		377400		333730

As always we sincerely thank Keith Holmes for his diligent work in so many areas of Church finance.

Welcome Esther

As mentioned elsewhere we have been lucky enough to obtain the services of Esther Galvin as our new Office Administrator. Esther and her son live in Seaford with their two cats.

As well as working in the church office from 9:30 to 12:30, Monday to Friday, she is studying a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Creative Arts and Health. In the near future Esther is looking forward to meeting as many High St folks as possible.

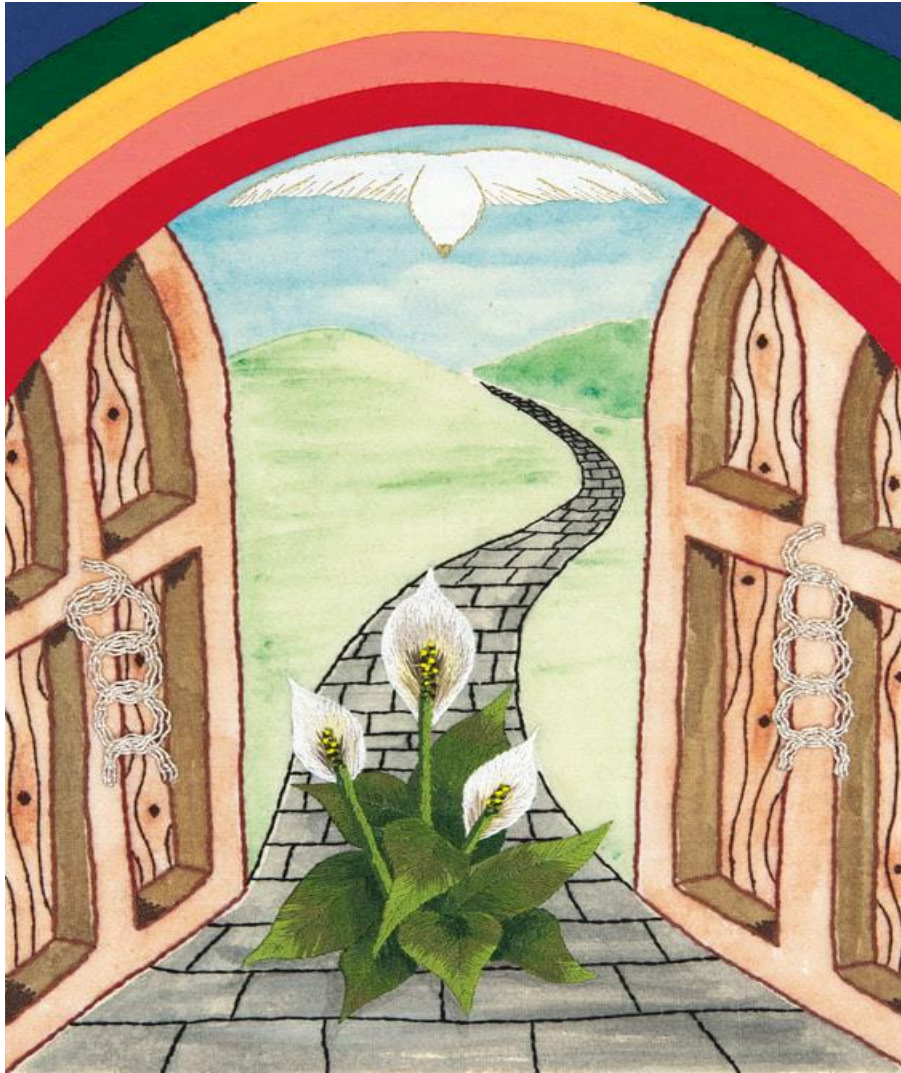


Out of the Mouths of Babes – Children write to God.

- Dear God, thank you for my baby brother but what I really prayed for was a puppy.
- Dear God, instead of letting people die and having to make new ones why don't you just keep the ones you've got now?
- Dear God, I don't think you could be a better God. I'm not just saying that because you are God.
- I know we have to be quiet in church 'cause people are sleeping.
- Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.



World Day of Prayer 2022



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This years' service will be held on FRIDAY 4th MARCH at 10.30am at High Street Uniting Church.

The countries this year are England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
The Theme is "I know the plans I have for you."

World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical prayer event held each year all around the world. Each year a different country prepares the service,

ALL are invited to come and share in this service to hear of the joys, concerns and needs of other people and to pray for them.