

# March 2024

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

Connecting Younger Generations IN GOD'S LOVE

Embracing All People WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION

Strengthening Community THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT



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



# High Street Times





## 'International Women's Day' Walk

Join us on **Saturday 16th March, 2024**

**From 8:45 am to 12:30 pm AEDT**

Frankston Yacht Club – Sporting Club (brunch venue) Frankston | Seaford Foreshore

friends at the Church of

## World Day of Prayer 2024 Palestine



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

10.00am Morning Tea

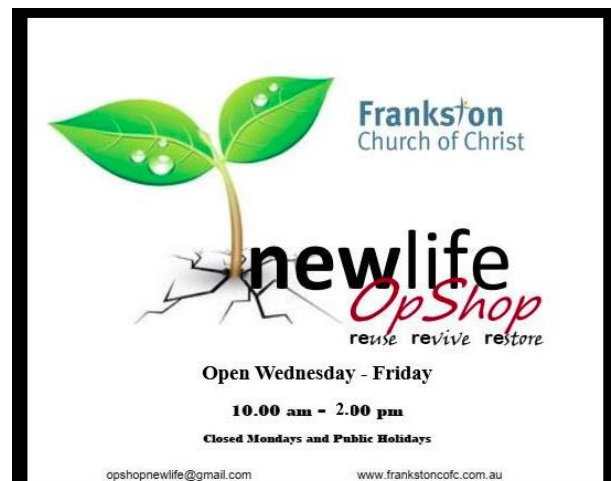
10.30am Service

St Paul's Anglican Church, Frankston

Cnr Bay & High Sts, Frankston

Speaker: David Lepore from 'Bible Society Australia'

Enquiries: [office@stpaulsfrankston.com.au](mailto:office@stpaulsfrankston.com.au)



Our friends at the Frankston Church of Christ were good enough to take a stall at our recent Fair. Those who love op-shopping might like to search them out at 130 Cranbourne Rd. Open Wed – Fri 10am – 2pm

Enquiries 0488 011646

## Crossword Answers (Back Page)

Down: 1 Shearers, 2 Exhorting, 3 East, 5 Passion, 6 Enchanters, 7 Rabbi, 8 Dotting, 9 Bakers, 14 Nineteenth, 17 Ashtaroth, 18 Psalter, 20 Dreamer, 21 Tittle, 22 Taught, 24 Omega, 26 Asia.

Across: 1 Shekel, 4 Appeared, 10 Ephesians, 11 Cubit, 12 Rare, 13 Meditation, 15 Raisins, 16 Nathan, 19 Agreed, 21 Torches, 23 Atonelements, 25 Baal, 27 Glean, 28 Millstone, 29 Teachers, 30 Rashly.



# From the Minister...



## Rev Ross Writes



In a collegial group a few years ago, we were talking about themes and readings for preaching.

One colleague said that instead of following the Lectionary, he was doing a four-week series on Ephesians, to which another colleague asked if he had told them where Ephesus was. It was a bit of a joke, but it started a conversation about the role of teaching in preaching and how preachers cannot assume that our congregations have a robust level of Biblical knowledge. I have heard some ministers say that they preach on themes from readings and not the reading itself because it takes too long to explain all the background and details of the who, when and where of the text and the

story.

This is not an indictment of people in our congregations, but rather a comment on the 'culture' of our denomination, where Bible studies and Bible knowledge are not rated very important. There seems to be an understanding that all that knowledge comes from Sunday School, or your own devotions and learning, or, that it is indeed the task of the preacher to be a teacher as well. I think this is a post-Christendom reality check for us. In a church where more people are entering with no church or Sunday School background, we need to develop a culture of Bible study and Bible knowledge. In a culture where the church is increasingly marginalised, we need to model to our children and young families that the Bible is important and understanding its background is important. In a world where more people are trying to use Biblical quotes to justify their moral or political positions, particularly on social media, we need to have a better knowledge of the Bible, its origins and compilation over 1000 years, its structure as a collection of books, its multi-layered purposes, and its variety of genres.

There are plenty of excellent introductory books on the Bible available, however I think some basics might be helpful.

- Consult the study guides and maps and illustrations in your Bible if you have them.
- Ask questions of the passages and the books. Who was the writer and when did they write? What was happening amongst the people of God and in the world at the time of the writing? What sort of book is this, history, poetry, prophecy, gospel, letter?
- Recognise that the books of the Bible were written in another language and culture, and some things don't translate directly.
- Be aware that the chapters and verses were added in the Middle Ages to help readers, and the paragraphs and headings were added only recently.

If people are willing and interested, I am always ready to do some presentations or studies on the Bible, its origins, structure and purposes, and the characters and history behind what we have as scripture. Maybe people would prefer information sheets on the background to the books and stories being referred to in the Lectionary each week. Biblical literacy is important for people to add understanding and depth to their faith; never more so than now, when it seems that the only options that our society is being presented with are 'old, outdated stories', or 'the infallible, literal word of God'.

## ZOOM/PHONE DETAILS

For all services:

On a tablet or laptop computer: Go to <https://zoom.us/j/95468493260> and use the password 3199.

(or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and use the meeting number below)

On a phone without video: call (03) 7018 2005

Meeting ID: 954 6849 3260 #

Participant ID: #

Password: 3199 #

## Water – the stuff of life



As we start our journey through Lent, the subject of water becomes important – the flood of Noah and the Ark, the baptism of Jesus, the Israelites wandering in the desert, and Jesus' time in the wilderness. It is an important part of the stories of Jesus as well, particularly in the Gospel of John, something that I tried to capture in this artwork. Moses striking the rock lets out the great stream of water that also symbolises all the benefits and threats of water. The destruction of the flood, the blessing of

the rainbow, the wonders of baptism that also includes the danger of water symbolising Jesus' death. Water is the stuff of life and the stuff of faith.

### 2024 World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical day of prayer led by Christian women on the first Friday in March. Each year, it is an opportunity for local churches to come together to pray for a particular place in the world. This year, the host country is Palestine. With all that has been unfolding in Gaza, it is a timely opportunity to pray for the Holy Land.

Our World Day of Prayer service will be held at St Paul's at 10am for morning tea, with the service at 10.30 and the speaker for the day will be David Lepore for the Bible Society.

### Presbytery News

Following the Induction of Rev Jay Robinson as Presbytery Minister - Team Leader and Rev Robin Yang as Presbytery Minister – Church Development, the presbytery now has a full PM team and is looking forward to exciting ministry this year, including the ongoing development of the Casey Cardinia Project with its promise of ministry in this important growth corridor.

Online courses available through the Synod eLM unit include:

#### *Old Testament*

An introductory online unit conducted by Mel Perkins for anyone who wants to learn more about the Old Testament is being run over 10 sessions on zoom from February 26 to May 6.

#### *Understanding the UCA*

An important course for those wishing to take up some form of ministry, this unit is also hosted by Mel Perkins with zoom sessions from February 28 to May 22.

For information on registration, please see Rev Ross.

### Assembly News

Uniting in Prayer 2024 19 May - 22 June

Uniting in Prayer is a time to pray and reflect on our past and present as the Uniting Church, and what God might have in store for our future. All who call the Uniting Church home are invited to join together in thanksgiving and hope to pray and seek the leading of the Spirit for the years ahead. This year we will be drawing on the upcoming Assembly theme, "Threads of Love, Weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries" as a catalyst for reflection.

### Victorian Council of Churches News

Victorian Mosque Open Day 2024

On Sunday the 25th of February, Mosques across Victoria will open their doors to all Victorians interested in exploring and celebrating the diverse cultural and religious tapestry that defines our state. The closest mosque to us is in Cranbourne and they would welcome your visit.

## We pray...



- For those within our church family who find it difficult or are unable to attend worship, including: Sheila Knoop, Gwen Paxino, Audrey Smith, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Margaret Snyder, Beth McNamara, Effie Tilley, and Barbara Yates.
- For Effie Tilley, currently in palliative care.
- For all who are in poor health and having treatment, including Jen Johnson, and Michelle Clarkson.
- For Virgil Snyder who has been in hospital recently.
- For Jessie Williams in hospital for a knee replacement.
- For Howard and Andi Kerr as they move to Baxter Village.
- For the conflict in Israel and Palestine, and the innocent people who are caught up in it. For the leaders of the world countries who are attempting to bring about resolution, and for the aid workers who are trying to make a difference.
- For the World Day of Prayer service on 1<sup>st</sup> March at St. Pauls, focussing on Palestine.
- For Ukraine, still under attack from Russia.
- For those affected in the recent bushfires, especially those who have lost their homes.
- For those affected by the recent storms, and lost power to their homes.
- For those recovering from floods around the east coast of Australia over summer.
- For Michael Downing and the Victorian Council of Churches Emergency Ministries (VCCEM), and other service agencies, as they respond to those natural disasters.
- For those around Frankston who experience homelessness.
- For all those living with mental health needs in our church family and our community.
- For those struggling with the ever-increasing cost of living.
- For all students and teachers beginning or returning to university for the new 2024 year.

*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 [hsuca-prayer@googlegroups.com](mailto:hsuca-prayer@googlegroups.com). The prayer chain is a small group of church members who are dedicated to prayer, and consider all communication and prayer needs strictly private and confidential unless specified otherwise.*



Greetings once more! 2024 has clearly arrived as we recently had our first Church Council meeting for the year. Allow me to share some key aspects of that busy meeting. As always, please feel free to contact me should you have any queries or seek clarification in response.

### **Visit by our Moderator David Fotheringham**

You will be pleased to learn that our former and much-loved minister, Rev David Fotheringham, will be worshipping with us, and preaching, on **Sunday 27 October**, at a special combined service at 10am. Please note the date in your diary. Assistance with catering on the day will be greatly appreciated!

### **Brekky Club**

As part of our commitment to social justice by actively supporting those in need within our local community, HSUC is integrally connected with Operation Larder, the Wednesday barbeque, and other initiatives. So, when the community 'Brekky Club' made contact in January to seek our permission to temporarily use our facilities, due to the need for them to move from Chisholm TAFE, after ensuring that an appropriate user agreement was completed, we happily agreed. This has been a successful arrangement and enabled this key community support activity to continue whilst a new permanent site is finalised.

### **Budget for 2024**

We are all only too well aware of the stringent and challenging financial climate which surrounds us. As a church we are similarly impacted, with the rising costs of utilities, insurance and other operational elements and building repairs and maintenance. Moreover, as some people have departed from our midst, the available funds from our planned giving have declined. Thankfully, the hiring of our facilities by many external groups and organisations partially offsets some of our financial commitments. We are much blessed to have the devoted skills and oversight of our Treasurer, Keith Holmes, who together with his assistant, Emma Lindenburg is managing our budget. Please be aware, however that this will be a very challenging year to try to cover all our costs.

### **Organ recitals**

Thanks to our wonderful Choir leader, Bronwen Mathews, an exciting initiative for 2024 is the plan to present up to three organ recitals at different points in the year on Saturday afternoons. Did you realise that our Aeolian pipe organ is historic, special and wonderfully versatile, even if its pipes are well-hidden behind the wooden screen at the back of the church? Many would recall the two wonderful organ recitals with Lachlan Redd several years ago (pre-COVID!). Bronwen has used her sleuthing skills to ascertain that we have another talented pipe organist in the local area, Chris Cook. So, make another note in your diary- Saturday 4 May- will be the first recital! Funds raised will help with the upkeep of the organ and ensuring a musical presence is supported in our church.

### **Management Committee**

We are very fortunate to have the expertise, dedication and determined hard work of Michael Guest, Alan Jenkins and Robert Downing in overseeing our suite of buildings. They work tirelessly and are continually seeking to ensure not only that everything is safe and operational, but complies with complex Synod building requirements. This is precisely why we held our first ever fire drill on 21 January. They had previously ensured that all new, requisite exit signs had been installed. The first removal of asbestos roofing (from the rear lean-to shed) will commence soon...and so the vast list continues!

### **A recycling initiative!**

Thanks to our wonderful and industrious gardening group convenor, Anita Setterfield and her husband Dennis, Church Council readily embraced a way to both encourage recycling, as well as adding to church coffers!

Michael Guest has purchased a special wheelie bin, which is labelled for recycled bottles and cans (which must be intact with a visible bar code). We are inviting you to bring your bag of such recyclable bottles and cans when you visit the church and place them in this bin. When the bin is full, Dennis has kindly offered to take these to the Frankston Victorian government recycling depot where these will be converted into church funds. This is both convenient and mutually beneficial, is it not?!

Looking forward to accompanying you on the spiritual journey to which this season of Lent invites us all and to supporting the work of Christ in our midst.

Shalom

**Chairperson, Ross Huggard (the other Ross!)**



## A QUIZ TO PONDER

*The following is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the 'Peanuts' comic strip.*

*You don't have to actually answer the questions.*

*Just ponder on them. Just read it straight through, and you'll get the point.*



1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five American Open winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

*How did you do?*

*The point is none of us remember the headliners of yesterday.*

*These are no second-rate achievers.*

*They are the best in their fields.*

*But the applause dies, awards tarnish, achievements are forgotten.*

*Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.*

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier?

*The lesson:*

*The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money . . . or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most.*

### THE "I DON'T KNOW PRAYER"

Did you know there's a prayer called the "I don't know" prayer?

It's very spiritual.

You just go off somewhere quiet and hidden  
and you walk right up to the heart of God and you say, "I don't know."

I don't know where to go from here.

I don't know what is happening.

I don't know how to process this.

I don't know what to do with these emotions.

I don't know how to handle this situation.

It covers a lot of "I don't knows."

And then with whatever dusty little sand grain of faith you have,  
you say,

"But You know."

And you leave it there.

God most certainly hears that prayer.

*We thank Robert Johnson for these contributions.*



by UnitingWorld | News | January 22, 2024

Lent Event is inspired by a simple but powerful idea. That every one of us has a role to play in building a world free from poverty and injustice.

It's especially true of the issue of climate change.

Climate change is worsening every threat to peace, security and human wellbeing in our world.

It's going to take all of us, doing all we can, with all our hearts, to fight it.

We believe people of faith have a powerful role to play in taking meaningful climate action, as well as inspiring hope and courage to face the future.

**Join us for Lent Event. 14 February – 28 March, 2024**

Commit to 40 days of faithful action for God's creation. Start wherever you're at with a large or small sustainability challenge. Use it to fundraise to help vulnerable communities who are fighting to build resilience and mitigate climate impacts. Raise your voice.

Along the way, we'll be considering the role of faith in caring for God's creation through a series of short devotions and video interviews with our partners and theologians.

Sign up today and start inspiring others to join! [www.lentevent.com.au](http://www.lentevent.com.au)



### **Let's get on board the container deposit scheme and make some money for the church.**

There is a wheely bin in the courtyard ready for your bottles and cans (don't crush them. The barcode must be read) Bring them along and willing helpers will cash them in for valuable funds to help keep our church gardens beautiful.





# **"Afternoon Delights" Concert**

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

**SATURDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 1.30 P.M.**

**FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA IN THE CHURCH HALL**

**A fundraising concert for Tom Sutherland's work in India**

Tom Sutherland has had significant contact with this Frankston Church about 45 Years. His Outreach Programs are active among the Darlet People in Southern India. They include a School for Handicapped Children, a Workshop where Widows and Deserted Wives produce items that are sold in Australia and the UK. He works with The Banyan Tree Organization. Tom is the Man to go to if you are sick, dying, homeless, hungry or without hope. He is loved and respected by all around him regardless of their Caste or Religion. This Church has raised Funds to support Tom's work for over 40 years.

## **Artists**

### **Soprano: ROBERTA MCGREGOR**

Roberta has an extensive and varied background in singing, teaching, acting, directing, and all aspects of theatre, along with visual arts and writing. Roberta has been a recitalist across Australia, including solo tours with Len Vorster. She was soloist at the opening concert for the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre in 2008 and recorded a CD in 2002 "Your Eyes Smile Peace" on The White Noise label. Roberta now resides in VIC and gives local concerts regularly.



### **Pianist: ANNE-LOUISE GLADING**

Anne-Louise Glading gained a Bachelor of Creative Arts in Piano Performance at UOW, going on to complete a Master of Musicology at UNSW. Ms Glading also holds an AmusA in Piano. She has performed in many master classes with international pianists Tessa Burnie, Lisa Moore, Piers Lane, Antony Peebles and Gerard Willems. Now living in Victoria, she has held concerts at Long Island Village and sings in the Uniting Church choir in Frankston.



### **Music Group: CADENCE**

"Cadence" is a five-piece vocal and instrumental music group. Their material is selected from a wide range of styles, the sound is very much based around the vocal harmonies, presented in a "folk" style, and includes some A cappella items. As most members bring extensive choral experience to the group, they arrange items to highlight the harmony parts, accompanied by a variety of instruments. Cadence has recorded several CDs including their latest album "Seeking Harmony".



**Entry \$25 (Concession \$20) Including afternoon tea**

Tickets can be purchased at the venue on the day or from the church office or through

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/afternoon-delights-concert-tickets-824953968527?aff=oddtcreator>

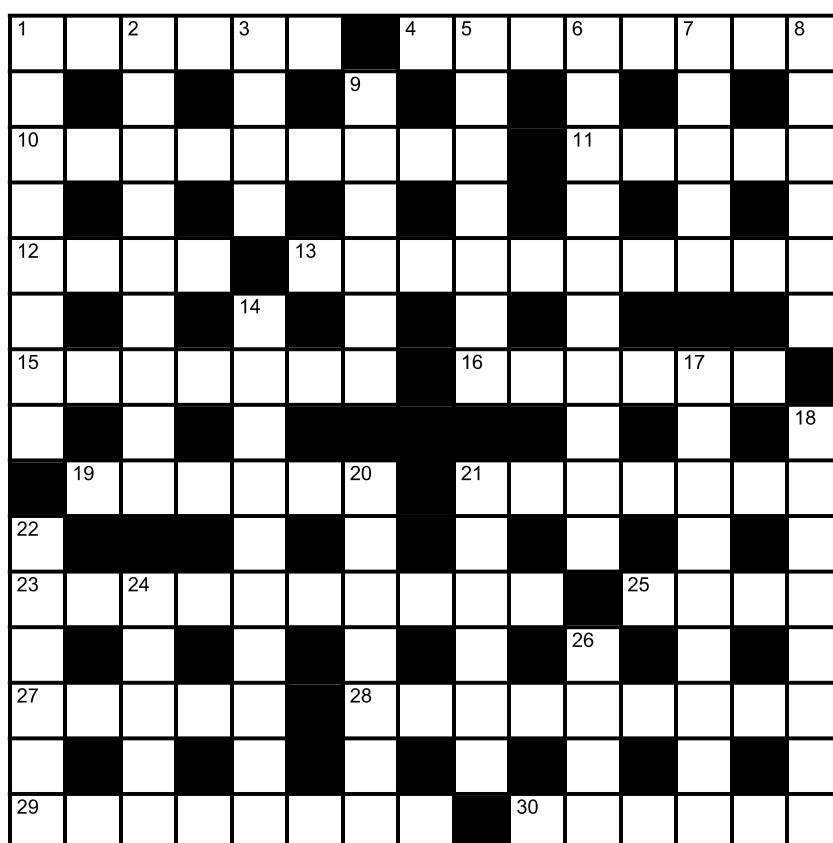
# BIBLE CROSSWORD I

## Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)  
 4 Seemed (8)  
 10 New Testament book (9)  
 11 Unit of length (5)  
 12 '...it is a \_\_\_\_ thing  
 the king requireth'  
 (Dan 2:11) (4)  
 13 Contemplation (10)  
 15 Abigail supplied David  
 with one hundred  
 clusters of these (7)  
 16 A son of King David (6)  
 19 Concurred (6)  
 21 Light sources (7)  
 23 Propitiations (10)  
 25 A false god (4)  
 27 Gather (5)  
 28 Abimelech was hit by  
 this (9)  
 29 Instructors (8)  
 30 Hastily (6)

## Down

- 1 Skilled animal  
 workers (8)  
 2 Inspiring (9)  
 3 Compass point (4)  
 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

6 The words of Jeremiah  
 said not to listen to  
 these (10)

7 Jewish leader (5)

8 'He is proud, knowing  
 nothing, but \_\_\_\_\_  
 about questions and  
 strifes of words...'  
 (1 Tim 6:4) (6)

9 Bread makers (6)

14 In this year of King  
 Nebuchadrezzar's reign,  
 Nebuzaradan arrived in  
 Jerusalem (10)

17 Ancient city of Og, King  
 of Bashan (9)

18 Stringed instrument (8)

20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)

21 Tiny amount (6)

22 Jesus did this with  
 authority (6)

24 Last letter of the Greek  
 alphabet (5)

26 Province of the Roman  
 Empire (4)