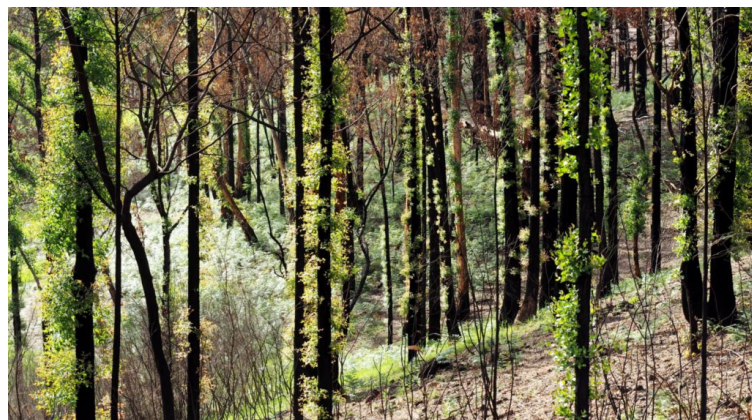


MAY 2020

# 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

[WWW.FRANKSTONUNITING.ORG.AU](http://WWW.FRANKSTONUNITING.ORG.AU)



**MINISTER:** Rev David Fotheringham (0407 861 092)  
**PASTORAL CARER:** Rev Brenda Cooper (0405 194 327)  
**YOUTH & CHILDREN WORKER:** Meg Ryan (0415 255 289)  
**MONASH UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN:** Mandy Lake  
**CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:** Jacqui Harris  
**FIND US AT:** [www.frankstonuniting.org.au](http://www.frankstonuniting.org.au)  
**EMAIL:** [frankstonuc@gmail.com](mailto:frankstonuc@gmail.com)  
**CHURCH PH:** 9783 3400

# For Our Prayers.....

May the Lord  
be my light  
in the dark.

*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. At the moment, none of us can gather physically at the church, so we are praying for everyone! Nevertheless we especially remember the following: Leon & Shiela Knoop, Barbara O'Malley, Gwen Paxino, Audrey Smith, Glad Thuraisingha, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Fay Dungey, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Eileen McCarty, Molly Maughan.*

Pray for Hannah, as the birth of her child approaches.

Pray for Marlene's brother Fred and his wife Diane.

Pray for Millie's brother Bill, recovering from the virus in Scotland.

Pray for Marilyn's niece, Wendy, and her brother Colin (also known as George).

Pray for Andrew, recovering from stroke in Queensland.

Pray for Howard, recovering from surgery.

Pray for Beth, in rehab after a broken hip.

Pray for Naomi and the community in which she is providing care.

Pray for those who are recovering from the bushfires.

Pray for all of those grieving after death of four police officers.

Pray for the VCC Emergencies Ministry.

Pray for the homeless and those providing support for all in need.

Pray for doctors and nurses; for those working in essential services and those who are unable to work; for those who are sick and those struggling with isolation.

Pray for the countries who have been hit so hard by the virus; and for those who are now very vulnerable.

**Gracious God, into your hands we commend ourselves and all those whom we love, trusting in your love and grace for us in Jesus, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**



# FROM THE MINISTER

Two months ago I wrote an article for High Street Times that had no mention of the pandemic. So much then changed, so quickly! Through this period, many of us have had a renewed appreciation of healthcare workers, shopkeepers, and all of the conveniences and enjoyments that we have otherwise taken from granted. For some, this period is producing significant challenges and difficulties. Fortunately, direct experience of the virus within our community has been very limited.

With a slight variation, John chapter 20 includes words like this: “When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples sheltered were locked for fear of the virus, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you”.

The beginning of Acts also depicts the disciples being told by the risen Jesus to stay put, until the time was right. He didn't promise the restoration of the normality that the disciples craved, but he promised his presence; he promised them the ability to forgive; and he promised their coming empowerment by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to him and to the way of the Kingdom of God. For that we can also pray, listening for the people God draws to our attention for our care.

Which of those three promises is most significant to you, right now: the promise of his presence (Matthew 28:20); the promise of the ability to forgive (John 20:23); or the promise of coming empowerment by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to him and to the way of the Kingdom of God (Acts 1: 3,8)? Reflect on which of those three promises is most significant for you and why that is the case, and turn your reflections into a prayer (which, if you want to share it, I'd be delighted to receive an email about).

Having celebrated a very different Easter, this edition of High Street Times comes out just before a very different Mother's Day. Be assured of prayers for all who find this time challenging. By the time you read this, the situation regarding restrictions may be changing, in the meantime, let's continue to meet together in the ways that we can, and be alert for God's prompts for prayer and care.

God's peace,  
David (davidfoth7@gmail.com)

## 3PM PRAYER

Recently (26 April) we read from Acts 3, where the story of the disciples healing a lame man began in this way: “One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.”

In our reflection, I put out an invitation to mark 3pm as a special time for prayer, stopping to pray then for 5 or 10 minutes, to refocus your attention for listening for God and lifting your prayers to God.

For those who aren't already in a pattern of prayer, consider whether God may be calling you to try a new pattern. A pattern that I'm suggesting, as an experiment, is:

- Before 9am, read from the Bible or a commentary, and see if God brings something to your attention. Give this 5 or 10 minutes.
- Around 3pm, pray, maybe lighting a candle; maybe writing your prayers for those on your heart, the world, and your observations.
- Around 9pm, reflect on the day, reviewing times when you felt God to be close, or not so close, and leaning into God's grace.

If you try an experiment with this – either with the 3pm prayer alone, or with the 9am/3pm/9pm pattern – see what you notice over a few weeks.

Peace and grace, David

# LIFE IN LOCKDOWN - REV BRENDA COOPER

How very thankful I am to have been called into retirement prior to this Corona Virus event. I don't know how I would have coped with the innovative ministry which our clergy are now called to undertake. I am therefore grateful for those who are feeding our faith through these new forms of media.

This week I received from Hampton their monthly equivalent to our Frankston Times, which included a lovely Easter Message from Rev Anneke Oppewal, our Presbytery Minister for pastoral Care, and also a lovely blessing from Rev Craig Mitchell, Presbytery Minister from Mission. Anneke's message is around a favourite Easter reading, the journey to Emmaus, Craig's Blessing speaks for itself. They are included in this issue for your enrichment.

I would also like to give thanks for the lovely services which David is creating via phone and Zoom. I enjoy picking all the voices of the community, as well as seeing little faces, it's such a nice way to connect. I would like to pay tribute to David's endless patience with helping us seniors to navigate our way around the unfamiliar, as we challenge ourselves with these new ways of doing church.

Many clergy of course are doing video services which can be enjoyed at any time, and Craig's innovative way of holding Chaos 'parties' must be such a blessing to families in particular.

I'm rather enjoying this time of slowing down and reflecting. I also along with others, appreciated David's '3.00pm prayer challenge', from this Sunday. I choose to do mine while walking which has multi benefits. Other benefits for me this week, I am having cataract surgery tomorrow. I'm excited about this, I know so many who have found it beneficial. It's also good to know that certain sorts of elective surgery are being undertaken again.

Blessings to all, Brenda

## SUNDAY WORSHIP LINKS

### **TRADITIONAL (9:00am)**

Phone **(03) 7018 2005**;

Meeting ID - **616 254 006**;

Participant ID - (none - just press #);

Password - **3199**

If you want to join using a video link that is also possible by going to

**<https://zoom.us/j/616254006>**

but the focus will be on people linking by phone.

### **CONTEMPORARY**

(children from 10:25, main worship from 10:40)

**<https://zoom.us/j/556610676>**

or phone **(03) 7018 2005**; Meeting ID **556 610 676**;

Password **3199**.

### **WEBSITE:**

Reflections accessible in text format from Sunday afternoons. **<https://www.frankstonuniting.org.au/>**

## OFFERINGS

If you are not connected to regular direct debit, one-off or regular offerings can be made to the church by transfer to

FRANKSTON UNITING CHURCH

BSB: **063 133**

Account: **800128**

Description: **OFFERING**

Alternatively, keep a bowl for your offerings at home, or mail a cheque to the church office,  
16-18 High Street, Frankston 3199.

# Prayers in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Harold



President of the Uniting Church in Australia Dr Deidre Palmer has asked for Uniting Church members to pray for our Pacific partners after Tropical Cyclone Harold battered the region.

The Category 5 cyclone swept through the island nations of Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga, causing flooding, power outages and leaving many homeless at a time when these nations are deploying their own strategies against the coronavirus pandemic.

UnitingWorld has been in communication with our partners in the region as they begin to assess the damage.

International Programs Manager Aletia Dundas said the Cyclone caused the greatest damage in Vanuatu ravaging the islands of Santo, Ambae, Pentecost and parts of the Malekula Islands.

“Our partner, the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV), initially lost touch with colleagues but has since learnt of the devastation in Santo. There has been roof and likely equipment damage to the eye clinic and significant damage at the Talua Theological Training Institute forcing the college to close until repairs can be done,” Aletia reported.

“Availability of food and access to clean water are the immediate concerns.”

In Solomon Islands, a boat carrying villagers to their homes in Malaita Province capsized leaving 28 people missing. Fallen trees caused power outages including at the referral hospital.

Our partners, the Methodist Church in Fiji also reported flooding damage to infrastructure, buildings and gardens, which are an important food source.

UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer has written a pastoral letter to our partners ensuring them of our prayers at this time.

“I encourage Uniting Church members to pray for all those impacted by Cyclone Harold, and that particularly as the threat of the coronavirus looms, that recovery efforts can be sustained to people left homeless and without access to food or water,” said Dr Palmer.

In response to a request from the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, she encouraged people to pray at 9am every Wednesday for our Pacific brothers and sisters.

“May God sustain our Pacific partner churches with strength, wisdom, compassion and hope, as they embody the Gospel of Christ at this difficult time.”

# A Potted History of “Wesley” the Plant

I caught up with Bev Fowler last week, and found out an interesting potted history of “Wesley” the plant! Some of you may not be familiar with “Wesley” and its origins. The story begins quite a few years ago!

Bev informed me that there has been a church presence at 26 High St Frankston since 1860. The initial building was a small wooden structure. A new, larger brick building was opened in 1887. And an even larger modern brick building (the current one) opened in 1969.

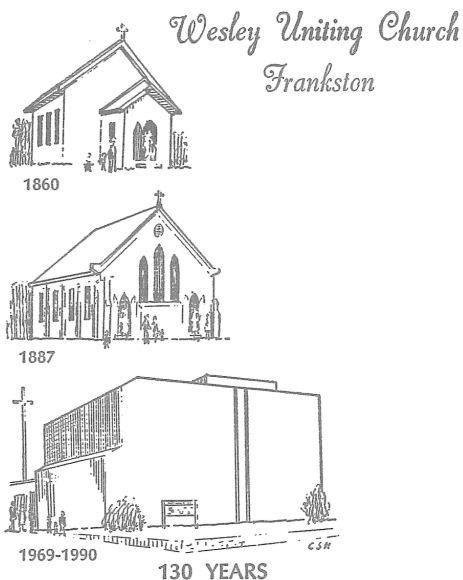
Many of you will have been in the most recent church building, and may remember the vast grey brick front wall of the church. On this front wall were placed some very special items:

A font: symbolising birth

A large wooden cross: symbolising crucifixion

A tall creeping vine: symbolising mission going into the world.

Bev explained that these items provided particular focus and meaning for worshippers during many years of regular services at the church. When it was time for Wesley and St Andrews congregations to merge at 16-18 High St several years ago, it was important for Wesley members to bring significant symbols to the new shared building. Bev took a cutting from the original vine, has carefully tended it over recent times, and “Wesley” is the vine which continues to grow at the front of our High St Uniting Church presently. “Wesley” provides special memories for members originally from the Wesley church, and it is very much hoped that it is appreciated and meaningful for all involved in our church now.



*In this wonderful photo from 1992 of the first annual Singing Xmas Tree, when Rev John Connan was minister, the top of the cross can be seen in the centre, and the large vine creeping up the wall to the right. (The font was fixed to the wall to the left, and doesn't appear in this picture.)*



## 40 Years of Service as an Elder

And, while we are mentioning Bev, we wish to acknowledge that she has recently stepped down as an Elder, after 40 years of wonderful service. Of course, those who know Bev know that she also taught Sunday School for around 30 years, and been involved in many other aspects of church life. Bev remembers being in the church all her life, from a 6-week old baby bundled up behind her mother who was the church organist! We express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all she has done.

# CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE: MARCH-MAY 2020

First and foremost, please be reassured that your Church Council has not been in hibernation in these challenging and uncertain times! Indeed, we have held two meetings by Zoom (like so many are now obliged to do, including all of us to worship!) and another is scheduled for mid-May.

## **Maintaining contact**

As you know, we have three agreed broad principles, embodied in our vision statements: 'Strengthening Community', 'Embracing All People', 'Connecting Younger Generations'. We have explored the best ways in these socially-distancing times to continue to adhere to these tenets. Regrettably, some of our usual means of outreach and support for the community are currently not possible, including external groups being able to still access our facilities, the Wednesday BBQ for those in need and Operation Larder.

However, hopefully, you will have received the previous especially-mailed Easter edition of *High Street Times* and found this to help normalise and affirm the significance of Holy Week. In addition, hopefully you have by now had contact from an Elder, COG member or pastoral care visitor in recent times. Rev Brenda Cooper, our Pastoral Care Coordinator has also been making contact with various individuals requiring support, along with our Minister, Rev David Fotheringham. The last page of the April edition also contains the contact phone numbers of key supporters for this congregation. Please do feel free to contact one of us if you are lonely, concerned, require support or simply need to chat!

Hannah Dungan has now commenced Maternity Leave, and we wish her all the best in her role as a new Mum. Meg Ryan has ably stepped into Hannah's role and is busily preparing and disseminating diverse activities for our younger folk to undertake.

## **Changes to plans**

It will come as no surprise to you that we have needed to change the planned calendar for church activities. This is an unfortunate consequence of the understandable government decision to impose limitations on meetings, movement and activities in society to protect us all from the scourge of COVID-19.

In particular, we have sadly had to cancel our planned May fete but are hoping that our planned 21 November Christmas Fair will proceed bigger than ever later this year!

Obviously, all other church groups and activities have had to go into recess for the foreseeable future.

## **Acknowledging the wonderful efforts of our Minister, David**

At our 14 April meeting, Church Council members unanimously thanked David and acknowledged his exceptional, determined and undaunted efforts to ensure that we have had continuous worship Services. His bright and breezy welcome via video or phone Zoom link since mid-March has only been possible due to his considerable efforts behind the scenes. We have been a pace-setter in this technological delivery and we are indebted to David for all his has done, and continues to do!

In such unsettling times, we recognise that these reassuring messages have never been more important!

## **Budgetary challenges**

Once again, Church Council wishes to express its gratitude to Keith Holmes who, as Treasurer, is constantly monitoring the serious financial consequences for High St UC of the COVID-19 related restrictions. We also wish to thank Emma Lindenburg, who is now ably supporting and working with Keith as Assistant Treasurer. Our church is, just like all elements of society, experiencing a significant revenue downturn associated with the loss of rental income from our premises, diminished offering money and the loss of projected fete income. As a result, we have been obliged to reduce other non-essential expenditure areas.

We would ask you to again prayerfully consider continuing to make your usual church offering, either through our Commonwealth Bank account (see elsewhere here for details) or by cheque payable to High Street Uniting Church Frankston, which can be posted directly to the church.

Shalom

**Ross Huggard, Chairperson**

# BUSHFIRE RELIEF WORK OF HIGH ST UC MEMBERS

After all that has happened with COVID 19 recently, the terrible bushfires over summer seem a long way away! It's important though that we remember these events and the significant impact on so many people and communities around our state, and around our country. At High St, we are very proud to say that many of our members had a role to play in assisting and supporting people during these times, mostly through the work of the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry (VCC EM).

Many of you will already be familiar of the work of VCC EM, an organisation which began in 1977 and has grown to over 1,600 volunteers who are trained to respond to disasters in Victoria.

Following a disaster event, the VCC EM supports the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to deliver relief and recovery activities for affected people, including providing psychosocial support (psychological first aid, emotional and spiritual care and personal support) in relief and recovery centres and through community outreach.

After the bushfires in East Gippsland and north-east Victoria early this year, many VCC EM volunteers were called upon to be deployed to fire affected areas to carry out some of this work.

Several volunteers from our own congregation were deployed: David Fotheringham, Valmai Scully, Hannah Dungan, Alan Mathews, Mandy Lake, Robert Downing, Ian Cayzer, Karin Jooste, Andre Jooste. Michael Downing of course was also highly involved as a key staff member of VCC EM. Steve Bernaudo, our candidate for ministry, was also involved as part of his army reserves role.

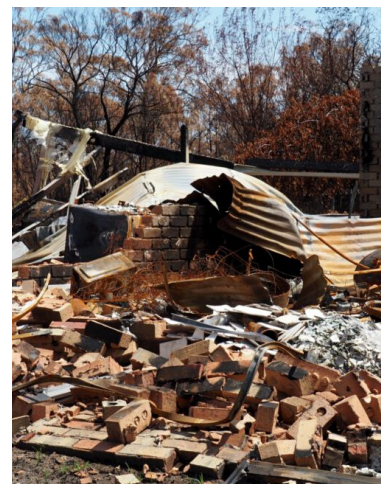
These volunteers worked in several different ways and had different experiences:

## **Co-ordinating from head office (Michael, Robert, Ian and Valmai)**

*Michael writes: What a mammoth task is to coordinator volunteers to be in the right place, at the right time, in the right numbers while also ensuring your volunteers are cared for not doing too much! In the first 39 days of the year we deployed approx. 279 individual volunteers who completed 741 days of work during that time. VCC EM have a full-time staff of only 3 people which means we exist to support our volunteers and not the other way around. From the 29th of January we had a team of volunteers staffing our Emergency Operations Centre with up to 12 people to help coordinate the response as one of the things about working in emergency management is that the situation is always dynamic and the goal posts constantly moving.*

## **Meeting the evacuees from Mallacoota coming off the navy ship in Somerville (David, Hannah, Valmai, Karin, Andre)**

*Hannah writes: One example of the work over January was 1200 people who were evacuated from Mallacoota via navy vessels, and were processed and reunited with family at the reception centre set up in Somerville and Cerubus. The VCC EM volunteers, many of whom were from local uniting churches, lovingly listened and patiently waited with anxious families for the navy vessels to bring their loved ones home to safety. Deep gratitude was expressed for the wonderful care they received. Credit to the Mornington Peninsula Shire and other local efforts to support those fleeing fire affected areas.*





## Relief and recovery centre work in Sale, Bairnsdale and Mallacoota (Valmai, Andre, Karin, Alan, Mandy)

Valmai writes: *The new year for VCC-EM started a race to place volunteers in Relief Centres in East Gippsland at Sale and Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Orbost etc [at one stage 14 Relief & Recovery Centres]. Our volunteers assisted many fire-affected people as they waited to speak with support services such as DHHS, Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc. The DHHS queue was particularly lengthy and our volunteers supported people in their waiting anything between 2-3 hours. There were people staying in tents and vans at another location, and our volunteers supported council in trying to work out solutions for those who had been displaced and had no-where else to stay. Our volunteers were also called upon to step in on numerous occasions when frustration was causing tempers to flare.*

## Secondary impact assessments in Sarsfield, Wulgulmerang and Gelantipy (Alan and Mandy)

Mandy writes: *We were privileged to be part of the initial team deployed to carry out these assessments in Sarsfield. These were organised by council, and involved teams of three which included a building inspector, an environmental health officer, and a VCC EM volunteer. Our task was to visit all damaged properties, and collect information for council as to the amount of damage to dwellings and other buildings on site, and any health risks posed (e.g. asbestos, open septic systems). Our role as VCC EM was to speak with the owners or residents if they were present, and offer emotional support and referrals to any services they might need. We had many pastoral conversations with affected people, as we were standing around their mostly devastated properties, and heard many amazing stories of people's different experiences of the fires coming through.*

## Army Reserves in Mallacoota (Steve)

Steve was deployed, not as part of VCC EM, but as part of his army reserves role. He was sent to Mallacoota in the first couple of weeks in January, immediately following the devastating fire which went through on New Years Eve. Amongst other very early emergency services, he was there on the ground assisting the community at a time when the town was in shock, cut off by road, had no power and water, limited provisions, and many holiday makers stranded. What an incredible job by all in very difficult circumstances!

We give thanks and are grateful for the work of the VCC EM and all other emergency services, and for the members of our congregation and others who used their time and skills for this very valuable work. We offer our continued prayers for individuals and communities affected by the bushfires as they journey through recovery and rebuilding, and especially with this additional challenge of COVID 19 restrictions effecting them even further.



# SNAPSHOTS OF LIFE DURING COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

We decided to catch up with a few people from our congregation to see how they are going in these strange times of unusual restrictions – here are their stories!

## **Valmai Scully**

### **What is different about your life at the moment?**

Not going out – Valmai has only been out 2 or 3 times in the last few weeks, very unusual! And not being able to see her daughter and grandchildren.

### **What is the most challenging?**

Valmai doesn't feel that it's been too difficult, she has only had one day feeling like a caged tiger! Her usual challenge is tidying things up around the house, and that is still an issue!

### **What are you doing to fill any extra time?**

Valmai has been doing veggie gardening, planting beans, corn and pumpkins. The beans are 6ft high already, but the corn isn't doing as well! She's also been doing some work on family history, going through old photo's and scanning them, and looking up ancestry information online. Valmai is hoping to get to other art and craft projects that she started ages ago but hasn't completed yet.

### **What is the best, or a good, thing?**

A positive thing has been the satisfaction of getting some extra jobs and projects done.

### **Any tips or words of encouragement to others?**

Valmai says she tends to go with the flow, she is concerned but not worrying too much about everything else that's happening at the moment.



## **Ray Alnutt**

### **What is different about your life at the moment?**

Ray usually does his own shopping, and takes a neighbour to do theirs, and he's not able to do that now (four different women have forbidden him to go out!). He also hasn't been able to go to his Monday exercise class and regular coffee catch-ups with friends – it's left a big hole in his week.

### **What is the most challenging?**

The interference with his social life. Ray really misses getting together with his friends, whom he has longstanding arrangements with for weekly meetings.

### **What are you doing to fill any extra time?**

Ray has been doing some work on the property (he lives on 100 acres and his son runs the farm). There's always plenty of maintenance work to do, trees falling on fences and lots of other things to be fixed. He goes for a walk every day too – two kilometres to his front gate and back.

### **What is the best, or a good, thing?**

Ray says he's been doing some real work, instead of spending a lot of time having coffees and chatting!

Also, because he's been doing a lot more physical work, he's getting more tired, going to bed early, and sleeping very well.

### **Any tips or words of encouragement to others?**

Ray thinks this situation prompts us to be more caring and thoughtful of others, and not so inward looking.

**Daryl and Shirley Groves**

**What is different about your life at the moment?**

Daryl and Shirley can't see family, and they have a big family! They have 8 children between us, 26 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren, with some living in regional areas of Victoria. They have a great grandchild aged 2 ½ months, who they haven't been able to see yet. They usually do Scottish dancing twice a week, but can't do that at the moment, and also can't go travelling in the caravan like they often do.

**What is the most challenging?**

Not seeing family and friends, and even having to talk to neighbours from a distance.

**What are you doing to fill any extra time?**

Daryl and Shirley are doing some walking for exercise. Shirley is recovering from spinal surgery eight weeks ago, so is limited with physical activities, but is doing mending and sewing. Daryl is spending time working on his Capri sports car, cleaning and fixing up the caravan, and gardening/mowing.

**What is the best, or a good, thing?**

Daryl has found extra time for reading a lot more than usual.

**Any tips or words of encouragement to others?**

Try not to argue with others in the house! Spend time actively outside in the sunshine, rather than in front of the TV. Keep occupied with different things, to avoid getting bored.



**Trent Kennedy**

**What is different about your life at the moment?**

Trent says the difference is within. He is feeling a lot more in tune with his inner self and has really slowed down and started to take life a lot more seriously.

**What is the most challenging?**

Trent thinks the most challenging thing is, having had to adapt quite a bit to even have a chance at coming out of the other end of this better than what he came in, coming to terms with the differences and managing life in such a way that he's maintaining the good bits and only burning the "deadwood".

**What are you doing to fill any extra time?**

Trent has been playing his guitar, learning some new things, listening to podcasts, taking part in online Bible studies.

**What is the best, or a good, thing?**

Trent says by far the best thing is the awakening experience he has had. He believes we have a lot of potential to fulfil, and he is enjoying it a lot.

**Any tips or words of encouragement to others?**

It's great to take this opportunity to develop your potential and learn something new and worthwhile, maybe about an interest or a hobby. And for times when we are really struggling, please forgive yourself for not meeting your expectations. And do keep in phone or zoom contact with people as much as you can. We are all craving that human connection.



IN CASE YOU MISSED LETTER TO THE  
EDITOR OF 'THE AGE' FROM OUR OWN  
REV ARTHUR POOLE

### Youth's battle on all fronts

Spare a sympathetic thought for our 18-year-olds. Most will be completing their final year at school and who knows how it will work out. It is a good opportunity to amend the current system and allow teachers who know their students to offer whatever grading is required.

Most will have looked forward to acquiring a driving licence, but driving practice with a parent has been curtailed in Victoria (The Age, 9/4). And if you happen to demonstrate sporting prowess, your year is a write-off. But you can always celebrate birthdays with your friends? Sorry, you have to stay at home. Hang in there, 18-year-olds, things will get better.

Arthur Poole, Frankston South

## World Day of Prayer 2020 St Paul's Anglican Church Pray for Zimbabwe



### Summarised Statement of Income/Expenditure for 3 Months to 31st March 2020

INCOME	Budget	Actual
Planned Giving/Open Plate	33000	31371
Rental Income - High St & Manse	14000	16706
Donations	375	550
Donations: Children's Outreach	125	110
Reimbursements/Miscellaneous	1250	1334
Goods and Services Tax		1925
Fete		50
Interest - Cash Management Account	500	680
GST Reimbursement MBA	500	1042
Atkinson Foundation Income	1250	1612
Guest Foundation Income	1500	1945
Bomar Grant	27000	26772
Transfer from Wesley Lease	10500	8627
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>90000</b>	<b>92724</b>
EXPENDITURE	Budget	Actual
Ministerial Costs	52750	55598
Administration Costs	12450	11822
Planned Giving Expenses		
Property Costs:		
Fire Brigade Levy	125	149
Cleaning/Maintenance	8000	8777
Rates: Council/Water	1375	1078
Gas/Electricity	2000	1024
Insurance	11500	11028
Sunday School/Children's Outreach	250	149
Organ/Choir/Copyright	500	658
Goods and Services Tax		1021
Miscellaneous	2500	2293
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>79950</b>	<b>82569</b>
Outreach:		
Mission and Service Fund	8100	8100
Tom Sutherland	125	
Community Support	500	500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>88675</b>	<b>91169</b>



### A Mother's Day Prayer of Blessing

"The LORD bless you,  
Mother,  
and keep you;

The LORD make His face  
shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;

The LORD turn His face  
toward you,  
Mother  
And give you peace."

~Numbers 6:24-26  
(prayer-a-phrased)

# Reflection - By Anneke Oppewal

Please read - Luke 24:13-35

## The Walk to Emmaus

Most, if not all of us, will be familiar with the story of the walk to Emmaus. It is a beautiful, gentle story about two friends walking home after some very eventful and disruptive experiences, deep in conversation, trying to make sense of what has happened and wondering about what lies ahead. Somewhere along the way they are joined by someone else, a third person, who helps them process their thoughts and shows them a way forward. By the time they reach their destination it is getting dark and they urge the stranger to stay with them. They prepare some food and as they sit down to eat they realise their guest is the resurrected Jesus himself, offering them hospitality and nourishment as he explains the scriptures and breaks bread with them.

Journeys, travel, people moving from one place to another is a recurring theme in the Gospel of Luke and its sequel, the Book of Acts.

It begins before Jesus birth with Mary, his mother, travelling from her home in Nazareth to see her aunt Elizabeth who lives somewhere in the Judean Hill Country. Later, she travels with Joseph to Bethlehem and gives birth in a stable. As a boy of twelve Jesus travels with his parents to the temple, and later, as a man, he travels all around the country with his disciples until finally ending up back in Jerusalem. In the Book of Acts we find Jesus followers journeying on, from Jerusalem into the wider world, all around the Mediterranean, to Rome and even further, to the ends of the earth.

As people embark on those journeys, the gospel, the good news about God in Jesus travels with them. From the moment the priest Zachariah hears of it first in the temple at the beginning of the gospel, all the way up until Paul shares it from captivity in a prison in Rome at the end of the Book of Acts.

The way Luke presents it, the gospel is on a journey, from the start, meant to travel, made to go out into the wider world, and find itself shared among different people, in many and varied circumstances.

It comes to Zachariah the priest, in the temple, and to Mary, the maiden, in her kitchen, to Elizabeth, an elderly woman living up in the hills. It breaks in with songs of praise, in a field where some shepherds are keeping watch, it comes to birth in a stable where a woman and a man and their baby shelter with the animals. It turns up at Bible Class, studying the scriptures with scholars, it travels the country, finds it feet where meals are shared. It finds a home with the rich and the poor, in an upper room among friends and on a cross in the company of the convicted criminals dying, it travels from town to town, finding its way all the way to faraway Rome and beyond.

God, according to the story as Luke tells it, can be found present anywhere, at any time and by anyone. Talking, teaching, breaking bread, and offering peace and blessing wherever God shows up. In our story today he turns up unexpectedly in the lives of two men on their way to Emmaus, whose world has been turned upside down. Two men trying to make sense of what has happened. Talking, teaching, bringing calm and comfort, he enters into conversation with them and joins them at the table in their home.

The conversation centres around what has happened, and puts it in the context of the scriptures. What it all means can only be understood against the background of what has gone before, God's history with his people. Only then are the men able to see and understand. And this is significant. Especially in a Church like ours where the first testament is read sparingly and selectively. The only way to 'get' Jesus, to 'see' and understand who and what he is, is in the context of what preceded his coming, the history of God with his people.

*reflection continued from previous page.....*

The men invite the stranger they have met on the road in. They make room for further conversation perhaps, but also offer him the security of a safe home to stay at and generous hospitality for one that would otherwise have had to be out on the road after nightfall. It is evening, and the night is coming, and two men open their hearts and their home for someone they don't know but they can see is in need of their protection and hospitality.

Once Jesus is invited in, a fascinating reversal of roles takes place. Jesus becomes the host and takes charge of the meal as he breaks bread with the two men who invited him in as their guest. And while doing so, somehow the meal changes too, from an ordinary supper among friends into something else -more sacramental and more deeply meaningful.

In the middle of conversations in our Churches about what constitutes a 'valid' communion it is worth noticing that the first communion of the early church after the resurrection is pictured here as an informal, impromptu meal at home, a couple of men breaking bread and reaching a deeper spiritual understanding of the gospel as they talk, eat and share together. Unexpected and so deeply life changing that they subsequently drop everything and go out to share their story and the good news of the gospel with others.

Jesus is at home everywhere the gospel tells us, breaking bread, talking, teaching, guiding and supporting people on their journey through life wherever they may happen to find themselves.

Not unlike those two men way back then, we also find ourselves on a journey in a time of unsettledness and transition. In an 'in-between' time. After significant upheaval, we also, like them, are finding ourselves insecure and worrying, wondering what lies ahead, for ourselves, for the Church and for the world. Walking along the path at Scotsmans Creek this week with the dog, inspired by the story, I wondered what it would be like if I was to suddenly find Jesus walking beside me at this time, making sense, bringing calm, clarity and peace, helping me to organise my muddled thoughts and taking some of the feelings of fear and dread that have been with me for the last few weeks away.

What that would be like and how it would feel.

And as I imagined it, I noticed how I immediately started to feel calmer, clearer, more at peace and at home within myself. I started to remember how, over the course of my life, there have been other times where I found myself lost, lonely, afraid, anxious and worried where calm and peace returned because I found someone beside me, either literally, or more figuratively and spiritually. Walking along the path that afternoon I could feel some of those previous experiences come back to me and wash over me and found myself able to lean into the comforting of God's presence. And as I pictured Jesus' calming presence beside me, I started to picture him everywhere. Not only around me but around others too.

Walking with people I swerved around, with families staying close together, with the man labouring behind his walker, with the young people flouting social distancing rules in the park, with the people working at the supermarket, terrified of contracting the virus, with healthcare workers on the front line, with people locked into nursing homes, and even further afield, across the world, with people that are suffering, dying, terrified in places where staying safe and staying home is a lot harder than it is for us here, in countries where governments aren't taking the measures we have seen to keep their community safe.

Suddenly I 'saw' Christ everywhere. God in Christ, ready to love, ready to care, ready to walk alongside people and enter into their lives with guidance, teaching, calm and peace, providing companionship, nourishment, healing and care where it is needed. It is an image that has stayed with me, providing me with the nourishment, comfort and care I needed, connecting me deeply to the presence and practice of God's love in action. Opening my eyes to something I had known before, but not quite as clearly as I suddenly saw it then.

It made me feel a lot better. Coming home after that walk, my husband and I had a coffee, and some cake, and eating together I felt content and grateful. Felt the presence of something bigger than me around me and my husband and the dog as we were sitting there. Assured that Jesus is still on the road, still traveling alongside us as God's loving presence. Alongside you and me, alongside others. He is on the frontlines, he is in Africa and India, in refugee camps, and other places where the suffering, the questions and the despair are a lot deeper than we are experiencing. God was, and is, with people in War Zones, seeking to bring healing and peace wherever people are crying out.

He asks us to open ourselves up to his presence and then invite him in and take the guidance for our lives and our nourishment from him. To let him be host, in our homes, in our lives, directing and showing us the way. He is alive in us and around us as we negotiate this part of our journey together. We are not alone. Amen.

# OUTREACH UPDATE.....

## **OPERATION LARDER INC.**

As we moved into lock down to combat the Corona Virus Larder made a last delivery of food to the Community Centre Frankston emptying our Store Room. We couldn't access sufficient food from our regular Suppliers and our future looked dim. However about three weeks ago we were able to source some food from the Food Bank Victoria due to the Governments Grant to help those in need of food. We are able to take delivery of a limited quantity each fortnight of about 200kgs.

This is not adequate to meet the needs of the Centre but it is a start. Our thanks go to Julie Burnham and Family as they take on the task of delivering our precious food from Food Bank Dandenong to the Frankston Support Centre.

## **RICE FAMILY**

About 8 years ago Marcus and Michelle Rice and their three children ,Aidan,Claryce and Abby visited our Church. They told us of their commitment to go to Thailand as Bible Translators for Wycliffe. They asked us for Financial and Prayer support. Mission Guild took up the challenge. We are still in contact with them monthly and doing our best to help. However whilst our ability to fund raise has diminished are Prayers are limitless.

They had the option to return to Australia as the Corona Virus spread across the World but elected to stay with their people in Chaing Mai. Marcus has been recruited onto the Local Crisis Response Team. They are constantly monitoring the Pandemic situation.

The Schools have gone on line. Aides should be Graduating in year 12 at the end of May. His exams are nearly upon him. The Rice Family is concerned for Family and Friends in Australia. Their last sentence in their latest E'mail is "we pray at this time that you feel the embrace of God,the touch of his hand as we follow the God who is ever in control and who is our watchful Father."

## **TOM SUTHERLAND**

The "Tom Sutherland" Support Group was able to send \$1500 to Tom last week leaving the Bank Balance very low. He sends his thanks and reminds us that the very first gift of money (except for his Mother)came from Frankston.We have been faithful in our support of his work in India.

Tom has spent most of the last year in Australia, living with his Sister in Port Fairy. He is in constant contact with his man in charge in Kerala . Philip Mathew is now the Director of this Outreach. Tom describes him as efficient and honest, a Christian dedicated to work among the poorer ones of Gods Children. He is from Kerala.

Tom says that in regards to the Pandemic there aren't many cases in the South of India and that currently most cases are in the Cities of the north. The Government is distributing some rice to those considered in poverty. All of Toms workers are still doing their work with the disadvantaged and on the lookout for those falling through the cracks. Our money is very welcome and will support his work for some time as Dollars go a long way in India.




## DIY PLAYDOUGH

**Ingredients:**

- 3 cups of flour
- 1 cup of cold water
- 1 cup of salt
- 2 teaspoons of oil
- 3 drops food colouring

**Method:**

Mix it all together in a bowl, knead until it's just right. You could even add a touch of peppermint or vanilla to make it smell nice.



### Boredom Buster.....

Whenever the kids get bored, they can choose a pick a stick, but the rule is you have to do what the stick says. Include fun activities as well as chores.



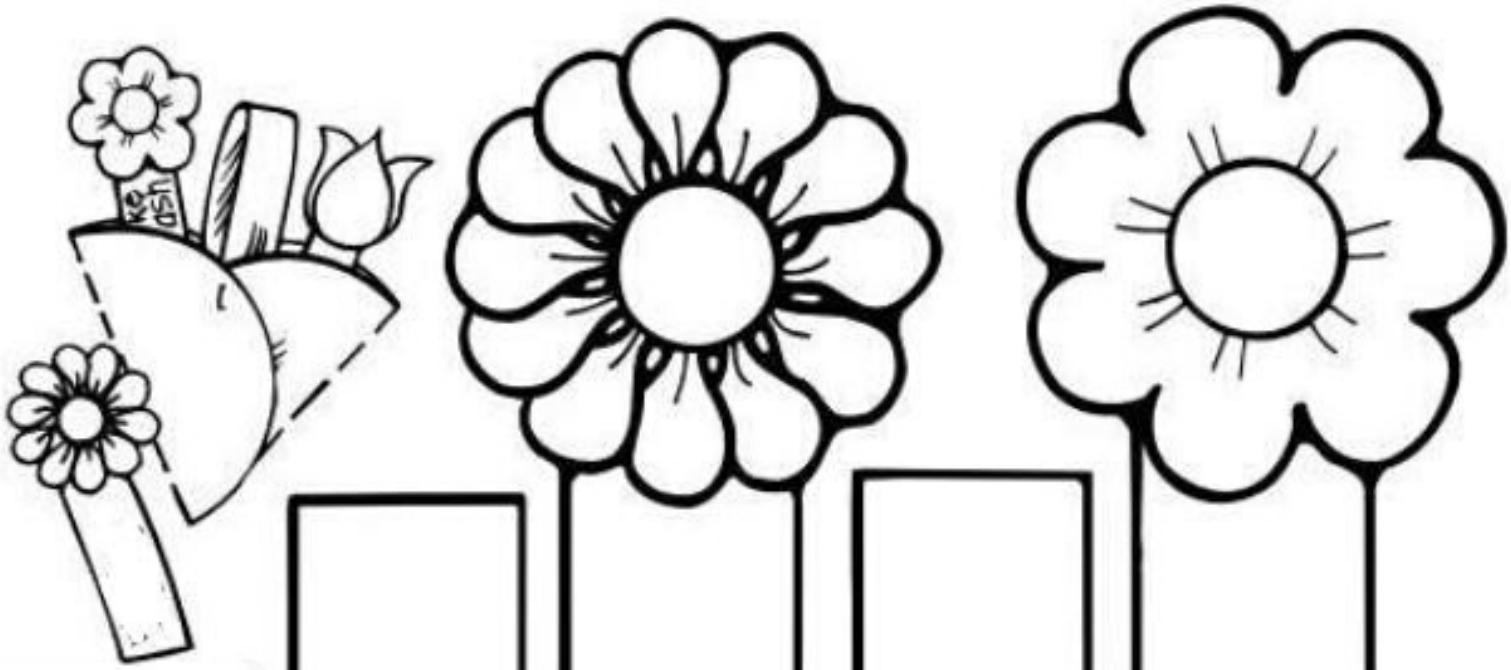
## Indoor Bucket List



- Blanket Fort & Reading Party
- Living Room Karaoke
- You Tube Drawing Class
- Homemade Playdough (see recipe)
- Homemade Slime
- Sewing Project
- Vision Boards
- Puppet Show
- Family Talent Show
- Family Paint Night
- Cooking Competition or Class
- Blow Giant Bubbles
- Sidewalk Chalk Pictionary
- Puzzles
- Origami
- Pasta Jewellery
- Kids Yoga
- Pinterest Craft
- Board Games
- Hopscotch
- Family Game Night
- Indoor Scavenger Hunt
- Living Room Disco
- Family Movie Marathon
- Cloud Watching
- Nature Walk
- Campfire Night
- Living Room Picnic
- Audio Books
- Kids Podcast
- Write letters to family



# Mother's Day Basket



Take a couple of pieces of paper and cut out 2 large circles. Then fold both circles in half and attach with tape or glue, as shown above. Cut out and decorate flowers and potentially add a few compliments for Mum

