

OCTOBER 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)



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# FOR OUR PRAYERS.....

*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:*

*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, Pat Johnson, and Ruth Poole.*

- Pray for all those who have loved ones with whom they have much reduced contact.
- Pray for those who are struggling with isolation, or the loss of employment.
- Pray for all the ways in which governments, community organisations, churches, health-care workers, and individuals work to provide support and care for all in need.

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.



MAY THE LORD  
BE MY LIGHT  
IN THE DARK.

## UCA PRESIDENT DR DEIDRE PALMER SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER

Creator God, you move across our world, bringing light, new life and hope.

We give you thanks for the beauty of your creation, the intricate and interconnected web of life.

We give you thanks for the sacred earth, the air and water, for the oceans that teem with life,  
the rain that refreshes and sustains life, the water that we drink that maintains life.

Christ Jesus, you come to bring renewal and reconciliation to the whole of creation.

We pray for all those places, creatures, and plants, that are suffering,  
as humans exploit your Earth and its resources.

Forgive us for the destruction we have caused.

Guide us into the way of respect and care for the Earth and all living things.

We pray that you will renew our resolve to participate with you in the healing and renewal of our earth.

May your Holy Spirit strengthen us with courage,  
to be bearers of your creative and life-giving presence in all the Earth.

Amen.



# FROM THE MINISTER...

Like many others I was appalled recently to see Donald Trump, during the continuing 'Black Lives Matter' drama, leave the White House with armed guards, walk down to a nearby Chapel and be photographed brandishing a Bible, as some of sort justification for whatever position he was claiming on that day... He seemed to be indicating this book was his guide for all he does and says....I found it offensive, and I know I am not alone. An interviewer later, in reference to the publicity stunt, asked him about his favourite verses from the Bible, and he was flummoxed. 'Well, all of it', he said. The interviewer pressed him further, but to no avail. Clearly, there were no verses which sprang to his mind.

For those of us who live our faith as revealed to us through the Word, (handed down to us over time at great cost!), there is so much that inspires. Firstly, how blessed are we who can read Scripture for ourselves and not be dependent on what we are simply told by others. How blessed are we whose parents exposed us to the Bible stories through faith communities, and to those Sunday school teachers who encouraged us to learn verses and screeds by heart as we matured in their care. Among my earliest memories are of being in a church at Christmas, (aged about 4), sitting with a crowd of other children, looking at a Nativity scene. There were lighted candles, we heard the Christmas story, and sang 'Away in a Manger'. Somewhere around then, a seed was planted. I don't know whether it was in the words of the hymn: 'be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay, close by me forever and love me, I pray'...but it's a hymn I still find profoundly moving, because that awareness of God's presence has stayed with me. (The seed may have been planted through my infant baptism, of which I have no memory, but it doesn't matter.)

Since then, other hymns and favourite Biblical passages have planted themselves in my head... As an early teenager, we had a student of elocution in our midst and she had us reciting favourite passages by heart during the worship services.

*'A certain man had two sons'...*

*The word of the Lord as it came to Micah', and so on...*

We all have our favourite parts of scripture which help sustain us through life, and I wonder what they might be. Anyone want to share with us through Frankston Times, on our 'Lockdown Literature' page?

Mine include the shepherd image from the Psalms, or the wonderful words of the prophet Micah, '*Love kindness, do Justice and walk humbly with God*', or those often used in funeral services.. from John's Gospel, the promises of God, '*I go to prepare a place for you.*' or from Paul's letter to the Romans '*What can separate us from the love of God*

In this current climate I'm enjoying David's use of the Psalm's in worship. I am delighting anew in God's beautiful creation through Alan's photography. But enough of me, I would love to hear from others, what is it that springs to mind as we contemplate the deeper things...and try to live our lives as disciples of the Christ whom we discern from the Scriptures?

Rev Brenda Cooper



## 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.

<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 Treasurer at 31 Lucerne  
Crescent, Frankston 3199

## UPDATE ON TOM SUTHERLAND

I have made contact with Tom. He is currently living here in Victoria but keeping in close contact with Philip his Leading Man in India.

The Covid 19 Virus was slow to reach his part of India the extreme Southern State. There are now some cases among the Folk he works with. The "Banyan Tree" the Organisation that supports Tom have provided Masks for the People involved in Toms Projects. The Ladies that paint the Cards that are sold in Churches in many places are working from Home. Tom is endeavouring to maintain the Salary that they would ordinarily earn. It's their sole Income.

The School for Handicapped Children is still operating and he is still supporting Hospital Patients that have no Family to care for them. His work with School Children is also proceeding. Tom relies on Donations from People like us. If you can help support his work please ring Dawn Peacock on 9781 3092 and I will make arrangements to collect the Donation.

Dawn Peacock

### THANK YOU

Alan & Gill Jenkins would like to thank everybody for thier  
love and support on the loss of Gill's sister.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM (COT) UPDATE

## Clothes Swap

Has Isolation driven you to cleaning out your wardrobes and drawers just for something to do? If not well here is a good reason to get to it.

We would love you to gather good condition, clean items of clothing, shoes, bags and other fashion accessories you are prepared to donate as we are planning to raise funds for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

When we are allowed to gather again we will host a clothes exchange where there will be bargains to be had, while raising funds. At this stage we can't plan an event date but we can put out the word to get collecting. Please help us by encouraging your friends and family to start storing items for us.

Once we are allowed to meet, we will announce drop off times and the event date.

Community Outreach Team



## KNIT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Common Grace is bringing together knitters from across Australia to knit 101 beautiful scarves that follow the pattern of 101 years of climate data, that will be gifted to church and political leaders next winter.

We can all work together to create 101 beautiful, science-led works of art that will inspire our communities and leaders to take immediate and drastic actions to preserve and restore God's beautiful creation in the midst of this climate crisis.

It doesn't matter if you're an accomplished knitter or a recent beginner, you'll be supported with resources to complete your scarf. Register your interest in knitting a scarf and you will receive a Knitter's Handbook to download. We ask that you also consider who else in your community would be interested in knitting alongside you and invite them to register too. To register, go to

[https://www.commongrace.org.au/knit\\_for\\_climate\\_action](https://www.commongrace.org.au/knit_for_climate_action)





- High Street Uniting Church, Frankston -  
-Community Outreach -

# CARE KITS

The Community Outreach Team(COT) at the High Street Uniting Church have put together the concept of "Care Kits" as a part of our outreach strategy. These kits will be distributed to people in need at our new Soup Kitchen that is expected to start operating from the church once COVID-19 restrictions are eased.



## How you can help?

1. CHOOSE - Male or Female Care Kit.
2. PREPARE - We are asking for people to purchase items and put together a kit over the next month - see listed items.
3. WAIT - A date will be advised when we are permitted to accept donations of the care kits.

For further information you can email us at:  
frankstonuc@gmail.com

## Care Kit - List

### MALE CARE KIT

- New Reusable Shopping Bag  
    >Green = Male
- 1 Bar Soap
- 1 Deodorant
- Masks > 10pk
- Hand sanitiser > pocket size
- Tissues > pocket size
- Sunscreen > small tube
- Tooth Brush
- Tooth Paste
- Shampoo
- 1 pair of woollen socks

### FEMALE CARE KIT

- New Reusable Shopping Bag  
    > any colour except green
- 1 Bar Soap
- 1 Deodorant
- Masks > 10pk
- Hand sanitiser > pocket size
- Tissues > pocket size
- Sunscreen > small tube
- Tooth Brush
- Tooth Paste
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- 1 pair of warm woollen Socks
- Pads/Tampons
- Hair Brush
- Lip Balm

## LITERATURE FOR LOCKDOWN

I have just finished reading Michele Obama's book, 'Becoming'. I really enjoyed it. Michelle Obama served as First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017. She's from humble beginnings, having grown up in Chicago in a small rented apartment with her parents and brother. Through hard work, and the encouragement of sensible struggling parents she made it to Princeton University, where she graduated in law. It was at her first job that she met Barack. It is a love story really, but I was inspired by her sense of awareness of the difficulties faced by coloured people in the US in particular women. She used her position as First Lady, and mother of 2 young daughters, to focus on children and the importance of their opportunities and education among other things. Michelle is a gifted writer, I particularly enjoyed her accounts of life in the White House. The Obamas are hard workers, good sincere people with a sense of wanting to help make lives better, in particular for people who are oppressed. It's a good read, and I recommend it if you like autobiographies.

At present I'm reading 'Bring up the Bodies' by Hilary Mantel. It's a sequel to 'Wolf Hall'.

It is an historical drama centred around Henry Tudor, plenty of church, politics and power, during the break from Rome, and I'm enjoying it. It has taken lockdown for me to feel OK about sitting down in the afternoon to read a book. Lockdown isn't all bad!!

Brenda

# LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR

Blessings to you all in VicTas!

I am aware of how different the situation is for all of us, depending on where we are in VicTas. In Tasmania, we are experiencing relative freedom with physical gatherings starting to happen, while in Victoria, restrictions are continuing for a much longer time, especially for those in metropolitan Melbourne. The announcement last Sunday of Victoria's roadmap to reopening from COVID restrictions has affected us in different ways. It was more or less what was expected by some, while others had hoped for something very different.

I found myself remembering the gospel story of two disciples on the road to Emmaus, telling the stranger they met along the way of how their hopes for a redeemer had been completely dashed.

And that led me to reflect on the other gospel stories of Jesus appearing to his disciples after his resurrection. Jesus came to his disciples in small fearful groups inside locked rooms or on the beach. He came to them in twos or threes walking despondently along the road. He came to Mary, tearful and completely on her own, alone in a garden.

Jesus' coming to them was not dependent on the size of the gathering. And in coming to his disciples, wherever they were, he took away their fear. He brought them peace and sent them out with courage and hope, as witnesses to his love and bearers of the Spirit of God's mercy. Jesus gathered them into himself and made them into one community.

No matter our situation, Jesus continues to come to us, gathering us into one community. We are gathered together, even when we are separated physically. As we pray and worship God – whether with printed resources dropped at the door, worshipping online or gathering in small groups – we are one huge gathered family in Christ.

As we care for each other – whether by phone, email, written letter or Zoom – we are showing our love for each other, holding and upholding each other in Christ's love. Whether packing food hampers for our local neighbourhood, advocating for increased resourcing for renewable energies, providing phone support for families through Uniting or personal care for elderly residents through Uniting AgeWell – we are a Church sharing the mercy and compassion of Christ for the world and people God loves.

As we face the challenges and heartaches of these times, we also know we are blessed by Christ through the gift of each other, and the many resources we can generously share with each other.

We are called by Jesus to be one community together through the times to come, drawing on the peace of Christ with us, holding each other in prayer and love, and sharing each other's heartaches and delights.

May you be bearers of Christ's compassion and peace to each other, and to the world God loves.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you this day.

Rev Denise Liersch  
Moderator



# SNAPSHOTS OF LIFE DURING COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS



## SHERRYN, MICHAEL, HUGH & MATILDA DOWNING

### **What has been different about your life during the restrictions?**

Both Michael and Sherryn have been working from home, so that has been very different for everyone. Michael is full time at VCC EM and Sherryn is teaching part-time. Hugh has missed seeing his friends at Kinder. And the family have missed not being able to go out on the weekends and do different activities.

### **What has been the most challenging?**

Sherryn says the most challenging thing has been not being able to see friends and family, and not being able to go to the parks with the children. Also, keeping Hugh and Matilda out of the study and gate-crashing Michael's important VCC EM management meetings.

### **What have you been doing while spending time at home?**

Sherryn reports that the children have been doing lots of different craft activities, and playing outside when the weather is ok. Hugh and Matilda have been learning to ride their bikes, and Hugh can now ride without training wheels. The family have also camped in their backyard a couple of times, which the children have really enjoyed – eating and sleeping outside, no screens, and enjoying a campfire. Sherryn and Michael started a Facebook page "Hugh and Matilda's Isolation Adventures" with photo's for family and friends they can't see at the moment, which has been fun!

### **What has been the best, or a good, thing?**

Michael usually works in Port Melbourne, so is saving 4 hours travel time every day! This means that he's home in the morning and afternoon to spend time with Hugh and Matilda. Another positive thing is that the family have come to know their neighbours better. With people out more locally and not busy with other activities, they have met and made friends with a family with three girls just two doors up, and Hugh especially has spent time riding his bike with them.

### **What are you most looking forward to when restrictions ease?**

The family are looking forward to catching up with friends and family, and going shopping. Hugh really wants to see his friends and go on holidays. And Sherryn and Michael are looking forward to a date night out at some stage! (Babysitting, anyone?).



# FIONA JONES

## **What has been different about your life during the restrictions?**

Fiona has not been able to do a lot of her weekly activities, including a music afternoon on Mondays, playing RummiKub and choir practice on Wednesdays, and babysitting her great-nephew Jed, 3 ½ years, on Thursdays. Jed has a new baby sister Pippa, 2 ½ months, who Fiona has not seen yet. Fiona also used to visit the pool three mornings each week for exercise, and misses her friends there also.

## **What has been the most challenging?**

Fiona says one of the most challenging things has been missing going to the pool. She went regularly to swim laps and walk in the water, and she has noticed the impact on her fitness after a few months away.

Also, Fiona is missing her family, including grandchildren, and friends, and has found it difficult being alone so much, as she is a very social person.

## **What have you been doing while spending time at home?**

Fiona has found lots of things to keep her busy! She has been keeping up with all her friends through emailing and phoning. She writes birthday cards with messages for all her friends and sends out around 20 per month! Fiona has also been busy helping her friend Norm pack up his house in Mornington, in anticipation of moving in with her. Fiona and Norm met three years ago while they were both in Beleura rehabilitation exercise class, and their relationship has grown since then. They plan to spend their time between Fiona's place and Maldon, where Norm has another home. Fiona has also been cleaning out cupboards in her home in preparation for Norm moving in, and has been going through loads of old photo's, bringing back lots of nice old memories.

## **What has been the best, or a good, thing?**

On some of these cold Sunday afternoons, following church and Songs of Praise in the mornings, Fiona and Norm have really enjoyed watching the TV series "The Darling Buds of May" which they have found hilarious and given them lots of laughter and lifted their spirits.

## **What are you most looking forward to when restrictions ease?**

Fiona is really looking forward to being able to go out for coffee or lunch with family and friends. Also to go for a drive down the Peninsula, for example to Arthur's Seat and to take the chairlift again, and other interesting places where Norm can share his local and general knowledge with her.

# A COVID POEM

BY JENNI FORBES

Close all the borders, stop the spread  
For our family in aged care softly we tread  
Zoom is the new way of meeting your friends  
But all this social distancing gives most people the bends  
Wear a mask it will protect you  
Only one person can the shopping do  
Hotel quarantine, well that was a joke  
It put Jenny Mikakos career up in smoke  
Don't get tested Donald Trump says  
It'll reduce numbers in our hospital beds  
Drinking Bleach is what you should do  
Oh how we hope for a President new!!  
Working from home is a saviour to few  
Especially with home schooling the littlies too  
Drive through testing the way to know  
But those who don't drive, where do they go  
Health workers everywhere feeling the pinch  
The opposition making Dan look like the grinch  
Protestors marching a risk to all our lives  
But in Australia most will survive  
Any death toll way too high  
For those overseas we feel their cry  
Close the gyms, no haircuts allowed  
But of our resilience we should be proud  
People losing their work, where do they go  
Job keeper saves them but just for a mo  
Airlines grounded, businesses go bust  
Checkpoints and permits now a must  
Don't dare get caught out after eight  
\$1600 less in your bank account mate  
Funny enough that those who can cope  
Have life histories that would cause others to mope  
And so from a psych patient's point of view  
We just do what we always do  
Focus on the half full glass  
Coz hopefully this will eventually pass.



# MONASH UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

## STAFF

As you no doubt have heard, universities across Australia are in very difficult financial circumstances due to the COVID 19 pandemic and impacts on numbers of international students. Almost all universities have been forced to consider cost-cutting measures, including reducing staff numbers. Last week there were announcements at Monash in relation to the plans for reducing staff, and the areas which have been targeted. This means that almost 280 positions will go across the university, and remaining staff most likely will have a reduction in pay and in some cases a redefined role. Therefore, some of what I have been doing in the past two weeks is reaching out to staff and having a few conversations with them about the impacts and consequences for them personally and for their teams around them. There is a lot of uncertainty about who will go and who will stay, and what things will look like in the future.

## STUDENTS

Student life continues on, completely online, until the end of semester. It's been a tough year to hang in there with study, with no face to face contact with other students and teaching staff. And it's particularly difficult when students face other issues in their life, on top of what's already happening all around them. One international student I have been assisting is normally supported by her father overseas, who has lost his work due to the pandemic in their country, and is struggling to pay the fees required for this semester. Her future has become uncertain, as she may need to discontinue her studies, but is also unable to return home at the moment. Another student, also international, failed her final placement for her occupational therapy course around the beginning of restrictions, and has had to wait months for another placement opportunity to come up, causing difficulties with finances and visas and mental health issues. Both students have appreciated the practical support provided by the university, but mostly the emotional support of having someone there to listen and check in with.

There are many students who are showing loads of determination and commitment to persevere with their studies in very different circumstances.

## A GOOD NEWS STORY

I also have a good news story I can share! For the past year I have been regularly meeting for English conversation practice with a young man who is the husband of a PHD physiotherapy student. They are from Iran, and he is also well educated, having done an Information Technology degree at home. He had trouble however securing employment here due to his English language level, particularly with confidence in speaking. He wasn't able to access most English courses due to his visa, or due to cost. I was able to refer him to a neighbourhood house for low-cost classes, and offered to practice conversation with him. He attempted his English test again a couple of months ago, and passed well! Then, due to his English, and their significant knowledge and skills, the couple were granted permanent residency in Australia.

They are very happy, and look forward to contributing to the community as they continue to live in Australia.

Mandy Lake