

June 2022

# HIGH STREET TIMES

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

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*Thankyou David...*

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



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





## Walking and Talking Creates Community

Do you like walking?  
What about talking to friends?  
Having a chat over tea or coffee?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these,  
then the Walkie Talkies group may be for you.



We gather at 9.30am on Tuesday and Thursday and walk for about an hour. Each 10 weeks, we have 20 different walks: travelling through a variety of places and landscapes. Check out the photos. See who you know that belongs to Walkie Talkies. During or after the walk, we buy a drink at a coffee shop or cafe. Members of the 9am and 10.40am worship groups and some people beyond the church enjoy the walk and the talk; discovering a sense of belonging and community as we go.

If you're interested in coming along, phone Ley McIntosh on 0408 355 622. She can give you more information. There is also a monthly breakfast and walk on a Saturday



Looking for something to do on a Sunday Afternoon? Want to get to know some different church members? Feel like discussing faith and life issues? Then you might like to come along on the first Sunday of each month to "Chat and Chew" with us. We will be meeting in the Foyer from 4.00pm to discuss a book, a movie, an article or a video. No need to commit to coming to every session. Just join in. For more information talk to Fiona or Arthur.

We will start on the first Sunday in June with a video on Feminist Theology. A simple supper will be provided and there will be childcare if you need that.

For the second month (July 3rd) we will be discussing a book called "Take this bread" by Sara Miles. We have 10 copies of the book to share around so let us know if you would like to read this and we will get a copy to you as soon as possible. This is the blurb on the back of the book.

*"Early one morning, for no earthly reason, Sara Miles, raised an atheist, wandered into a church, received communion, and found herself transformed—embracing a faith she'd once scorned. A lesbian left-wing journalist who'd covered revolutions around the world, Miles didn't discover a religion that was about angels or good behaviour or piety; her faith centred on real hunger, real food, and real bodies. Before long, she turned the bread she ate at communion into tons of groceries, piled on the church's altar to be given away. Within a few years, she and the people she served had started nearly a dozen food pantries in the poorest parts of their city."*

*Fiona Ryan*

### WORSHIP ON ZOOM AND PHONES

All services will be available for participation through **Zoom** and phones using the following links: Phone: **(03) 7018 2005**

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

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

# Welcome John Connan



The High Street Community bids a warm welcome to our interim Minister, Rev John Connan. John is no stranger to us as many will remember he was minister down the road at Welsey just before our time of coming together. John also has family here at High St which makes for an excellent 'fit' to our congregation.

A short bio follows:

*After candidating in 1960 John studied at both Universities of Melbourne, Bangalore and Delhi. After graduating he travelled the world finally ending up back in Australia at Noble Park Methodist. Next a move to Deer Park and further studies at Melbourne Uni including Syriac and Arabic with an eye to working in the Middle East. After a stint as Victorian Secretary to Methodist Overseas Missions he married Ann in 1969 and headed off to Tonga for a number of years. More travel followed with work in Los Angeles then back to Australia via Scotland, Scandinavia and more time in India finally finishing at Scots Shepparton. After Union John was minister at both Wesley in Frankston and Doncaster East before retiring in 2005. Since retiring John has been busy with lots of interim work including Brighton, Beaumaris, Berwick, Coatesville and others, more involvement in Tonga and plenty of Mission work which has taken him to many countries to enjoy world assemblies or international meetings.*



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



Shiela Knoop, Gwen Paxino, Audrey Smith, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Fay Dungey, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, the family of Eileen McCarty, Molly Maughan, Pat Johnson, Margaret Snyder, Beth McNamara, Effie Tilley, Ruth Poole, Barbara Trewartha and Barbara Yates. Pray for Michelle (daughter of Marilyn and Robert Downing), and for Kerrin Hill. Pray for Cheryl Wilson and for Noel. Pray for Maureen Beens. Pray for those with mental health needs.

Pray for Ukraine: for those fleeing, those caught up in fighting, and those seeking to provide shelter and hope  
Pray for Tonga  
Pray for those who are displaced from or within Afghanistan and Myanmar  
Pray for those around Frankston who experience homelessness.

Pray for our church as we enter a time of transition. and for the whole community that we serve in the love of God.

Pray for and all those who support the church in ministry and mission.

Pray for David, Robyn, Matthew and Cameron through this time of transition and for David's new role.

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





## Support for women and children in North India continues

The colder weather in Melbourne really helped sales of woollen knitwear and other items at the May Fete.

Goods on the stall were made by women in the villages in Punjab and Australian churchwomen. It felt good to be back on the fundraising trail for this important project in villages surrounding Amritsar, led by Dr [Alma Ram](#). Our church has supported the project to help women and children in North India for eight years.

Transformative change goes on in Amritsar and Punjab as [Alma Ram](#) and her colleagues continue with training programs for the self-help groups. Alma explained: "We were teaching on how and what is needed to be an animator in your village/city. This is a person who can illuminate and empower in their village on gender and past thinking over harmful traditions."

*Helen Beeby*



Friends of JBKS Helen Beeby, Jo Smith and Lea Trafford



## Fete Results

STALL	Interim	Post Fete	Current Total
Cakes	679.50		679.50
Fancy Goods	815.00	50.00	865.00
Sausage Sizzle	248.10		248.10
Plants	459.00	18.80	477.80
LEGS	194.00		194.00
Jams and Pickles	496.50	159.10	655.60
Competitions	362.50		362.50
Children's Activities	35.50		35.50
Morning Tea	446.50		446.50
Books	560.85		560.85
Trash and Treasure	108.00		108.00
Photo-cards	220.50		220.50
Commissions	130.00		130.00
Donations		50.00	50.00
Sundries		0.10	0.10
Other post fete sales			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>4755.95</b>	<b>278.00</b>	<b>5033.95</b>



One of David's final initiatives for High Street Frankston was a call for those interested in forming a social justice group to gather for a discussion. About 10 people responded. We now have a Social Justice Group which meets on the first Thursday of each month, either in the Green room, or on Zoom (Covid is still with us!!).



- The Uluru Statement from the Heart,
- The environment, and
- The plight of refugees.

Their vision statement is as follows:

How easy it is to feel helpless in the face of our troubled times, and yet, there is always something we can do. Sometimes we do feel drawn towards, or angered by, a particular situation. The JIM Cluster offers ways in which we can help.

- Petitions
- Postcard campaigns
- Email campaigns
- Lobbying visits with or without Church Ministers and Members
- Public art displays
- Media Coverage
- Research reports.



Dr Mark Zirnsak is the director of the JIM Cluster, and for me, one of the jewels in the crown of the Uniting Church. He has good relations and pretty ready access to people of influence across the board, and has offered his assistance to us, in any way he can.

As you are probably aware, we are contemplating a banner for outside our building, and have called for suggestions. We have in mind several speakers at some future date to talk about homelessness in the Frankston area; both are works in progress at this stage, watch this space.

I invite you again, pick up one of the publications, or one of the inserts which relates to your particular interests, and respond as you feel moved.

*Brenda* (Social Justice Group), June 2022



## A Personal Reflection on Care for the Environment

Back in 1976, while training for ministry, I wrote an essay 'Belief in God as Creator and human responsibility for the environment'. It was based on the premise that God is creator of all life and that, because we are made in God's image and likeness, we are to enjoy and care for the natural world.

At a recent meeting of High Street Uniting Church's Social Justice Group, when we listed key areas we might address, I said the most urgent issue before the world is addressing climate change. There are a number of reasons for this:

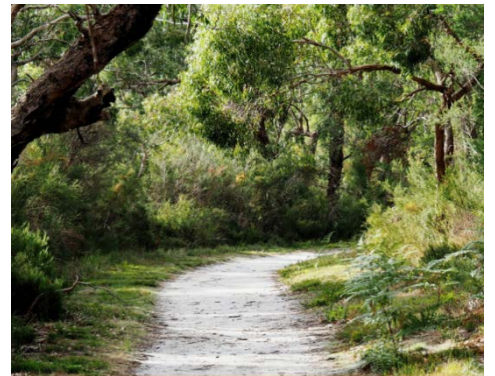


- if we don't look after our home, we may not have a home to live in.
- forests are the lungs of the world producing oxygen and habitat that God's creatures might live. The rates they are being cut down threaten animal and human life.
- scientists tell us the increasing regularity and intensity of bushfires and floods are due to climate change. How many of us been in anguish as we hear the cries of Australians and Pacific islanders who have lost their homes and livelihoods or as we hear more plants, animals and birds are threatened with extinction?

There is an issue that is often neglected when we talk about environmental care and climate change; and it flows from a misunderstanding of the biblical account of creation. Soon after the affirmation that we are made in the image and likeness of God, we read: God said to us, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' (Genesis 1:28)

Most often, we have interpreted 'subdue it and have dominion over ...' to mean the world and its produce is a commodity available for our use. Such a stance ignores the call to 'be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth' or assumes that this relates to giving birth to children. But, as in Psalm 23, which I preached on recently, our relationship with God is so bountiful and life-giving that we can sing out in joy, "My cup runneth over!"

God's creation is a gift for our enjoyment and care. As such, it has its own value and integrity; and, I believe, is to be received with joy and cherished. Dr Chris Dalton, a friend of mine, writes about land as 'beloved companion'; to be understood in terms relationships – to be seen, its voice listened to.



It is for these reasons, and more, that I love to be out and about in nature; to travel slowly in and through places of beauty – allowing them to enrich me and breathe me to life as I sit and watch a sunset or walk through a local Flora and Fauna Reserve or photograph Port Phillip Bay or a kookaburra as it laughs out loud. Perhaps the images you see here will invite you to see God's creation in a different way.

The HSUC Social Justice Group has made care for the environment and working for zero climate change a priority. What priority do you give it?

*Alan Mathews*

## Thankyou Brenda for this cautionary tale.

To my Frankston Church Family,  
I recently had a horrible experience which I wish to share with you, in the hope that you may not find yourselves in the same situation.



Last Friday week I was on the internet searching for Cocker Spaniel puppies (Well! I won't be doing that! I can hear you say!). Suddenly, I received from Microsoft, an alert, warning me that my computer had been hacked, and showed me a number which I should ring. I took it to be legitimate, because I do pay Microsoft to protect from such an occurrence. So I rang it. Enter 'Eric', who very patiently asked me to check on all of my sources of income and see whether anything had been taken from any of my accounts. I wasn't keen to do this, and started asking questions as to his identity, and location. He was from the Fraud squad, a government department, but meanwhile, I was not to speak to anyone about this call, not my computer 'guru', or friend or family member, as it was important we track these hackers, and 'we don't want any leaks'.

I became quite agitated, because I was unsure of the transfer process, I also had my remaining Cocker Spaniel, Barnaby, up at the vets having biopsies on lumps in his spleen, a stress in itself, as I waited for a phone call from them as to whether I may lose my second dog within a month (he's fine, benign lumps, within normal limits for old dogs, he's 13). Eric realised I was anxious and suggested that I get some rest over the weekend and that we continue Monday morning. He rang me Saturday and Sunday, to check I was ok, and reminded me of our appointment at 8:00am on Monday. Meanwhile, he set me up with a Hong Kong based account (HSBC), where I could transfer everything for safe keeping. I gave him quite a bit of info to do this.

I was also becoming frustrating to him, because I couldn't remember passwords here and there, and he promptly opened the 'saved passwords' document, while I looked on. As I clearly became more annoying, he transferred me up the line to 'Daniel'. Daniel continued to harass me, and showed me on my screen, a news story of a National Bank Employee who had been caught embezzling funds and was facing court and a probable custodial sentence. 'This could be you!'

After quite a session with Daniel, I was becoming uneasy, and said that I wouldn't transfer anything until I had spoken to someone! I said that I was aware that he knew an awful lot about me, and I didn't know anything about him! He then said, 'Look, I'll hang up, and you ring me back on this number'. I came off the phone and I felt so sick. I started to shake all over and felt like Barnaby when I took him to the vet! I had a glass of wine, and then said to myself 'get a grip', I am a retired professional person, not the gibbering idiot I was sounding like on the phone to my hackers. At that point, an old trusted friend rang, (all my friends and family and guru are trusted friends!!!). I told her what happened.... she said, 'B it's a scam!!! Don't speak to them, ring your guru!!!'

To cut to the chase, I rang my guru, who said 'I don't THINK it's a scam, I KNOW it is!'. He came later and spent 3 hours 'cleaning' my computer, meanwhile, I visited both my banks, who were marvelous. I now have new numbers, new cards etc which all took about one week.



I feel quite stupid revisiting this incident, but at the time it felt real, and was very frightening....

**So please, be aware of such messages, ring Microsoft should a similar thing happen to you, and verify any such claims.**

The last bit of information is that I didn't find a puppy on the internet, but I did, through a friend who has Springer Spaniels, and on Tuesday next I am collecting my Springer Spaniel puppy from the airport. she is gorgeous,

Barnaby can't wait! Her name is Pansy.

*Brenda*





*Cutting the ties*





## David's Farewell: Sunday 15 May 2022

### Ross Huggard, *Chairperson: Church Council*

So here we all are, David, some 6 years after you we welcomed into this congregational family as our minister, too soon heading off to your next call to be our collective Moderator. So, we must bid you *adieu*- God be with you- but not before we acknowledge some highlights of your time with us and try to articulate your legacy, whilst also recognising the inevitable sadness and sense of loss at your departure. It is bitter/ sweet, as you have noted.

David, throughout your time with us, you have revealed your exceptional capacity to listen intently to the needs and concerns of others, to resist making hasty and ill-informed decisions and to enact Christ's love to each and every one of us. We have been nurtured, supported and upheld by you and we thank you for this. You have truly ministered to our needs, whilst still ensuring that we have still been encouraged to grow spiritually as individuals and as a congregation. Through all of this, your customary and trademark fruity laugh has reminded us of your warmth, care and humanity as God's people in this place.

When you assumed the role as our spiritual leader here, we all embarked on a shared journey, not knowing precisely the route we would take, nor with what challenges and unexpected situations we would be collectively confronted. None of us could ever have predicted the advent of COVID-19 and its consequences, could we? Yet, as our ever-reliable leader, we have always confidently known that your hand has been guiding the tiller of our vessel riding the sometimes-rough seas, rather aptly considering our proximity to the sea and Port Phillip Bay. I would encourage everyone to once more gaze at the inspiration provided by the external stained glass of St Andrew as you leave today. At your inauguration as minister here, I happened to be seated with some of your flock from your former church (Ashwood). Their comments have once more resounded in my ears. They noted how warm, caring and approachable you were, and how much you nurtured them and thus how much they would miss your special presence. Now, in May 2022, we can readily echo their sentiments based on our own experiences.

Allow me to use your first name to highlight some of your special attributes:

**D** Dedicated to your sense of spiritual guidance and determined to proffer the cumulative wisdom and insights gleaned from the Bible. For most ministers, one of the most challenging aspects of their role is to develop and present a weekly sermon which enlivens and prompts reflection, if not action- as opposed to numbing their congregation. Your sermons David so naturally and powerfully weave in the realities of the moment- whether this be natural disasters in East Gippsland or northern NSW or Fiji or Samoa, or climate change, or real acknowledgement and support for our First Nation's people or the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic or the victims of Putin's drive into Ukraine- and reveal the potency and undiminished relevance of Christ's words and advice. These have been special spiritual gifts to each of us, based on your own devotion to our shared Lord.

**A** Astute in your assessments of situations, accomplished as an administrator and approachable in the advice and leadership offered to key groups including Church Council and the Ministry Team. David, you have approached the challenges and issues which have inevitably faced us with consideration, a desire to garner all the facts and due deliberation. These skills will be well used in your role as Moderator, I am sure! We will most assuredly miss your wise and considered counsel.

**V** Visionary in your sense of potential ways for our congregation to operate and to extend outreach into the community, as shown in our rapid and seamless transition to Zoom services and the establishment of our Friday Playgroup and Social Justice Group. You have readily explored opportunities and means by which we might operate more effectively and in new ways. Thank you.

**I** Initiative apparent in overseeing the development of a COVID-Safety oversight group and continually revisiting rules and requirements. As a congregation we were always ready to as seamlessly as possible transition to the next stage of set of governmental rules or Synod advice. Industry and intense input in managing a diverse and very considerable workload, balancing the requirements of being a father largely alone with 2 teenagers and at a distance, of key external Synod committees and expectations and the shifting needs within our own church.

**D** Devoted to sharing, celebrating and extolling God's love for each of us in so many special and memorable ways. As you have reminded us and urged us to reveal such love: rejoice and be gentle!

So, David, the time has come for High Street Uniting Church to part company with you. Of course, given that your exuberant marriage to your soulmate Robyn occurred in this place, I am sure that you both will always hold this place and its people in a special place in your hearts. Likewise, as you leave, you may feel well-pleased that, you leave in your wake, as your vessel sails into new and largely uncharted waters, a vibrant and active congregation, ready to continue to be God's people in this place, as the next chapter in our journey unfolds.

In closing, may I draw from the words of Dame Nellie Melba, in her last onstage performance in Melbourne-David, we *fare thee well*, but do not say goodbye, which is much too final, not that I am implying that this will be one of a series of farewells for which Melba was most famous! *Ross*

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## David's Farewell Song

*Performed at the service to the tune of*

*'Bye Bye Love' (F & B Bryant)*

*Lyrics by Kerry Pederick & Mandy Lake*

Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello emptiness, We think we're gonna cry-y  
Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello moderator, Why are you going, why-y?

There goes our David to something new  
We hope he's happy, we sure are blue.  
He was our minister, till voted in  
They saw the great gifts, we saw in him.

Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello emptiness,  
We think we're gonna cry-y  
Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello moderator,  
Why, why did you apply-y?

You shared the Word and, inspired all  
You built us up so, we would not fall.  
Baptising, sharing – the bread and wine  
Caring for us here, when things weren't fine.

Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello emptiness, We think we're gonna cry-y  
Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello moderator, They chose you as the guy-y

We were so happy, when Robyn came  
It was revealed that, she was your flame  
And over some time, your love it grew  
We watched you online – you said "I do"



Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello emptiness,  
We think we're gonna cry-y  
Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello moderator,  
We're going to need supply-y

A heartfelt thanks for, your leadership  
We won't forget all,  
those Zoom worships  
They were important  
whilst we locked down  
We stayed connected, and closely bound.

Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello emptiness,  
We think we're gonna cry -y  
Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello moderator,  
We're glad we found supply-y

We've loved your time here,  
we hope you know  
We're very sorry, to see you go  
Your ministry has, come to an end  
A great six years, we'll still be friends.

Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello emptiness,  
We think we're gonna cry-y  
Bye bye David, Bye bye Robyn too  
Hello moderator,  
We hope you will drop by-y

Bye bye David, Goodbye  
Bye bye Robyn, Goodbye  
Bye bye David, Goodbye

# Rosters- June

## TRADITIONAL WORSHIP (see also other side of page)

	Colour	Bible Reader	Preaching	Holy Communion	Bible reading*	STB	Notes
05-Jun-22	R	Keith Holmes	John Connan	JC	Acts 2:1-21	42	Pentecost
12-Jun-22	W	Dawn Peacock	John Connan			43	
19-Jun-22	G	Erica Hutchinson	John Connan			43	
26-Jun-22	G	Ian Cayzer	John Connan			43	

\*NB: For each Sunday there are 4 readings provided by the Revised Common Lectionary. Listed here is the one that the Spill the Beans resources focus on.

The other readings can be found listed in Spill the Beans or under the Revised Common Lectionary link on the High Street Uniting website.

## TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

	Stewards	Morning Tea Helpers	Flowers	Organ
05-Jun-22	Jenni Johnson, Mick Johnson	Graeme & Jenny Horsburgh, Enid Churcher	Marion Coulson	
12-Jun-22	Jenni Johnson, Mick Johnson	Jill Cayzer, Greit Hofer, Eileen Carolus	Marion Coulson	
19-Jun-22	Cheryl Wilson, Marilyn Sheerin	Bev Fowler, Brenda Cooper, Dorothy Bucher	Beryl & Marg	
26-Jun-22	Cheryl Wilson, Marilyn Sheerin	Rona Russell, Karin Jooste, Ali Vagenies	Beryl & Marg	

## TRADITIONAL WORSHIP (Elders and Communion)

	Duty Elder	Communion Setup	Communion Helpers
05-Jun-22	Mac Cleland and Dawn Peacock	Dorothy Bucher and Erica Hutchinson	John Coulson & Keith Holmes
12-Jun-22			
19-Jun-22			
26-Jun-22			



### CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

	Preparing and leading worship*	Acknowledgment & Call to Worship	Bible readings	Preaching	Children's focus	Holy Communion	Bible reading*	STB
05-Jun-22	?	Juli	Kate	John Connan	Yvonne		Acts 2:1-21	42
12-Jun-22	John and Jackie	tba	TBA	John Connan	Meg			42
19-Jun-22	?	Michael & Sherryn	Ley	John Connan	Irene			42
26-Jun-22	Mandy & Kerry	tba	TBA	John Connan	Meg			42

\* Includes choosing songs, and the opening prayer, other elements depending on how worship is shaped up

\*NB: For each Sunday there are 4 readings provided by the Revised Common Lectionary. Listed here is the one that the Spill the Beans resources focus on.

### CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

	Notes	Band leader	Singers	Zoom	Sound	Welcomers (and offering)	Hospitality
05-Jun-22	Pentecost	Mike	Tim & Kerry	Russell	Robert	Santhira & Kate	Valmai & Barb
12-Jun-22		John	Fiona & Yvonne	Karin	Tobert	Mandy & Andi	Joy & Andi
19-Jun-22		Mike	John & Valmai	Russell	Tim	Lindy & Jenni	Arthur & Santhira
26-Jun-22		Russell	Fiona + Jenni	Karin	Robert	Beryl & Marg	Valmai & Barb
EMERGENCIES:							