



**Shepparton
Uniting Church**

Second Edition
March 2015

Vine on the

Seeking to be faithful to Christ in worship, community life and serving the wider community.

**Blessings
on you all
this Easter**

**Interfaith
News**

Indonesian Interfaith visitors

**Getting
to know...**

Lois Hardy

**Fun For
The Kids**

Have some fun!

**Prayer
Points**

Prayers aplenty

**Reflecting on
God's Word**

Seeing the mountain



Rev.
Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt
(03) 58212077

A word from our Reverend

“

We are here as part of God's church, not because we are good enough, or because we are better than others, but because we recognise the need for God in our lives and seek to learn together what it is to walk the way of Christ in love and service of others.

We come from a variety of backgrounds and are at different points in our faith journey. This all adds to the richness of our lives together. Whether you are here as a visitor or looking for a place to be your spiritual home, I trust that you will find a welcome and something that nourishes your inner being.

”

Shepparton Uniting Church
150 Maude Street, Shepparton
P.O. Box 7032, Shepparton, 3632

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Prayer points...

Prayers aplenty

There are various types of prayers like imaginative prayer, responsive prayer, prayers that have stood the test of time.

This is an Easter prayer of Peter Marshall's, *A Man Called Peter*.

Monday, March 29th, 1948

Our hearts still singing with the beauty and joy of Easter, we pray to you O Christ, to keep us under the spell of immortality.

May we never again think



and act as if you were dead. Let us more and more come to know you as a living Lord who has promised to them that believe: "Because I live, you shall live also."

Help us to remember that we are praying to the Conqueror of death, that we no longer be afraid nor

be dismayed by the world's problems and threats, since you have overcome the world. In your strong name, we ask for your living presence and your victorious power. Amen

Those who miss daily prayers miss a lot.

Kaye Teague

Welcome to all

Welcome to the Easter Edition of *on the Vine*, the second edition of the Shepparton Uniting churches magazine. The publicity committee hope that you find inspiration, faith, hope and information through the pages of this publication.

Only a few weeks ago we were in the midst of celebration for the birth of Jesus. The presents, the tree, the lights and tinsel, and most importantly, the friends and family and love and laughter. It was a time when everything seemed right in the world. Now, at a time when I'm still finding evidence of Christmas in my house, the odd decoration or card still on display or tinsel hiding in the

carpet, our hearts are taken on a much more sombre journey.

These five months can be a tumultuous time for the Christian faith and in our lives in general. The shops have gone from playing end to end Christmas carols to selling back to school supplies, hot cross buns and Easter eggs. While the world is quick to move on through the seasons, we hope that you have found time over the last weeks to reflect upon Christmas and all that it may be for you.

The message of Easter is one of action. Jesus encourages us to pick up our 'cross' and

follow him. What will that cross look like for you? We hope to show you through this edition what that means for some people in our wider church community.

If you feel inspired or moved by some of these stories to share one of your own, we encourage you to contact Melissa or Jen via publicity@sheppartonuc.org.au

Until then, may you feel urged to move this Easter, to make a change in the world around you and to be that shining light to all those you meet.

Blessings,
Jen Shields

From the Minister's desk

Blessings on you all this Easter

At the heart of our faith are the realities of death and resurrection. In many ways the church of the past is in the process of dying, causing sadness and grief to those who have been nurtured and blessed through it. At the same time there is a coming to birth of a new church for a new generation with all its accompanying birth pangs. We don't know yet what it will look like but in our attitudes and practices we need to allow space for the new church to emerge.

All of us feel the loss of many of our long term members who are no longer able to join with us in worship on a Sunday morning, either through death, frailty of health or moving on elsewhere. At the same time it has

been great to welcome a number of new families and individuals into our shared life of faith and worship. More important than the size of our congregation is a recognition of the life and vitality that occurs as we worship, fellowship and engage in service together. There are some good things happening and positive signs of life that need to be nurtured and encouraged. It is great to see our congregation being enriched by people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The programs and activities of our congregation provide an opportunity to engage people from different places and stages in life but most important of all are the relationships that are formed

and the way the love of God and life of Christ becomes real to people.

To know God and be known by God is something very awesome.

How are we conveying the presence of God in our gathering and in our worship?

How is God's welcoming hospitable grace for the stranger being expressed?

At what points are people seeing and experiencing the love of God?

What are we conveying about God in our services, in our relationships, the way we go about things?

Renewal in the church often takes place during periods of deep crisis. During such



periods we can no longer pretend that we can get along on our own but are reminded of our need of the power and guidance of God. The Easter proclamation is that God brings life out of death. Resurrection is not just an historical event of 2,000 years ago but the way God works. As we recognise our own limitations, we are thrown into the hands of God.

The Gospel call is for us to have faith and trust in God. In all of the changing circumstances our hope and encouragement is in the Faithfulness of God and the saving power of Christ testified to in the proclamation of the Word and the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

Something of our calling as a church is well expressed in a statement of faith that came out of a series of Synod consultations some years back.

**Faithful is God,
who has called us,
and who will not fail us.**

Faithful is Jesus Christ,
who gathers us into a
community of hope:
to worship God with
wonder and praise,
to witness to God's love
in word and deed,
to seek God's justice in
the world.

Faithful is the Holy Spirit,
who releases us:
to listen for God's Word in



scripture and prayer,
to cherish the ministry of all
God's people,
and moves us:
to risk telling the story of
Jesus,
to take our part in God's
action in the world.

**Faithful is God,
who has called us,
and who'll also do all this.**

This is a call to place our
confidence in the One who
calls us and constitutes us
as a people of faith. A call

that, as a consequence, lifts
the burden of sustaining the
church from our shoulders
and places it where it
belongs, with God. For it is
God who will sustain the
church, and it is God who will
sustain us.

May we be open to the
working of God's Spirit in
our lives and that of our
congregation at this time.
May God's blessing be on
you all this Easter.

Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt.

UnitingCare Kildonan

Relationship task group



The Shepparton Uniting Church Council, through a task group, has been working with UnitingCare Kildonan (formally Uniting Care Cutting Edge) to look at the Memorandum of Understanding and its ongoing relationship with each other.

With more work to be done, the task group has been working with UnitingCare Kildonan and the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to find the best way forward for the congregation and the UnitingCare community support programs that are run within the Shepparton area.

The Church Council plans to spend its February meeting looking at the report given to them by the task group and will report back to the congregation in due course.

Shepparton Uniting Church Building project update

As of 11/2/2015

Three months ago we updated you saying "we now have a clear path forward with overwhelming support of the Synod" and "hopefully by the time this is printed these (heritage concerns) will be finalised".

Since that time we have had Advent and reflecting on a time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ as a baby. We have now moved into the period of Lent where we hear about the God's ultimate sacrifice for us; the death of his son.

In that time the Shepparton Building project as gone through its own time of waiting. Waiting for heritage

advisors response to the final touches Peps Plans has put forward to ease the heritage concerns.

It has taken almost the whole Three months since the release of our first issue but finally you may have noticed in the Shepparton news a notice for "an application for amended planning permit" with the Scots address on it.

The time of moving forward has begun!

Although the Property Planning committee have been in a period of waiting there has also been a time of preparation.

Audio and visual subcommittee has been regularly communicating

about sound and projection needs of the congregation and liaising with AV companies and individuals.

Peps Plans have been working with Engineers, electricians and other service trades on the finer details of our plan.

Other sub committees of the Property Planning Task Group have been gathering information and quotes around seating, fencing and other items in preparation of final approval from the Greater Shepparton City Council.

The Property Planning Task Group continue to ask for your prayers and support as they continue to work towards our new worship complex.

Getting To Know...

Lois Hardy

Born: Lois was born in 1938 in North Brighton the eldest of three and lived there until she was five when the family moved to Driffield in the bush.

Childhood memories: Lois attended three primary schools and three secondary schools, all in Gippsland. Although Lois didn't feel that she ever had a permanent home as a child, life in the bush was carefree and along with her brothers, she made numerous play houses, climbed trees, rode horses and bikes and was indeed a regular tomboy!

Lois was terrified of riding her bike two miles through the bush to school believing that was where the gypsies lived. She wagged school one day thinking she heard the gypsies coming after her. Lois sat on the edge of the dam, ate her lunch and went home when she thought it was home time, only to find out it was 10.30am. Her parents didn't understand about the gypsies, so she was in big trouble!!

First job: After completing Yr.11 and being too young to begin Teacher Training Lois worked in the local grocery store and then went to the neighbours farm to milk cows, even though her father insisted she didn't know one end from the other (which was true!). It was an enjoyable experience never the less!!

Marriage and Children:

After the birth of two daughters, Robyn and Jenny, Lois taught in a kindergarten before returning to Primary School teaching.

Lois and Brian met and married 43 years ago and moved to Shepparton where their daughter Erin was born. They have 5 grandchildren aged from 7-26. Sadly their daughter Robyn died two-and-a-half years ago leaving a huge hole in their lives.

Faith journey: As a child Lois began her faith journey attending the Methodist Church, Sunday School and Youth Group in Boolarra, all of which she said were most enjoyable. Other than that, because her father was a farmer and church was not a priority for him and her mother was a non-driver, Lois did not attend church often.

Whilst in Geelong at Teacher's College she attended St Giles' Presbyterian Church and later a Presbyterian Church in South Yarra.

Lois and Brian went to St Andrew's when they moved to Shepparton and Lois

learned to play the organ to help out with the music at church.

Church life has involved being part of a choir in Leongatha and in Shepparton, assisting with KUCA as well as holding office as a Church Councillor and Church Secretary at St Andrew's. Lois is convener of Operation Christmas Child and involved with the World Day of Prayer, music and the singing group at church.



Assembly Action

Centenary of ANZAC

Gallipoli is on our mind as a nation in 2015. The centenary of ANZAC reminds us that 100 years ago Australian and New Zealand troops landed on that barren shore, capturing our attention and imagination. The work of the Uniting Church Australian Defence Force Chaplaincy in defence has never been easy because our natural inclination as Christians is for peaceful coexistence. Peace, we believe, is the mind of Jesus.

Military chaplains have a long history. While representing the church as ordained ministers, military chaplains live in a seemingly ambiguous

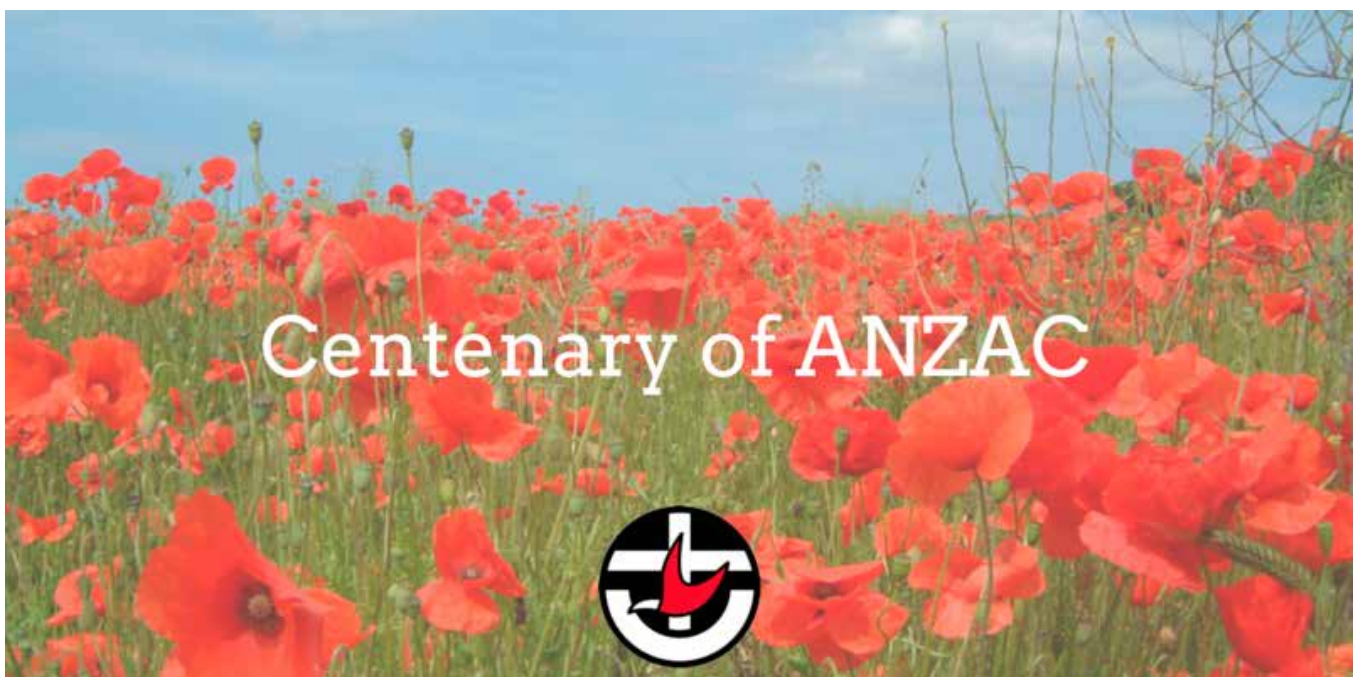
world and do so with élan, deconstruction and benefit. In various iterations clergy have served military personnel for hundreds of years. Some chaplains have died in battle, been repatriated or blossomed in a ministry of their own. Military chaplaincy is a niche ministry, particularly the case at Gallipoli where Australian chaplains found themselves interpreting unfolding events in an extraordinarily new ANZAC context. Chaplains still go to Gallipoli to lead the dawn service regularly attended by many Australians. As part of their duties, they also attend many other Australian war

cemeteries around the world.

At every memorial service there are memories of chaplaincy colleagues who stood in the very same spot - confirming an inspiring continuity of the churches ministry over time. At ANZAC Day this year UCA Chaplains will again recall, reflect and remind the nation that freedom is never free.

Rev. Dr Murray Earl
Defence Force Chaplaincy

Resources for ANZAC Services are available - contact Rev. Dr Murray Earl for more information:
Murray.Earl@defence.gov.au



Synod Snippets



Don't Follow Me. I'm Lost Too.

Early in my ministry I placed a bumper sticker on my car that read: Don't Follow Me. I'm Lost Too.

I was a little surprised that some of the parishioners didn't appreciate the humour, suggesting that it was not the message that I, as Minister, should be sending to the community!

Of course it does raise the question as to what message

we would like to send to the wider community and our own communities of faith regarding our leadership competency. What does the Uniting Church people

understand about the nature of leadership needed today?

First and foremost I believe it needs to be a shared leadership based on the gifts and skills needed in particular contexts – one leader will no longer fit all the contexts and circumstances in which we find ourselves.

How would you rate your leadership capacity and effectiveness for these times? Well, I'm not lost in my leadership yet I readily

admit to seeking progressive improvement and certainly not always knowing the best way forward. What about you and your team?

Progressive improvement means ongoing reflection and development – and it's not something that can be put off to another time – each day much is being demanded of us in our leadership of our communities. Join me and others in 2015 Living Leadership workshops which give attention to strengthening our leadership practice.

*Jenny Byrnes
Executive Director
Centre for Theology and
Ministry*

Living Leadership for teams



February 24-26 and March 24-26

Living leadership develops capacity for UCA teams. Every congregation and community relies on a range of leadership roles, and a network of people operating as a team, whatever the name or structure. Living

Leadership recognises the organic and evolving nature of leadership in contexts of challenge, and times of change.

Build capacity, insight and resilience within your team for leadership as a team through participation in this six-day intensive. Hosted by the experienced team of the Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM), engage the skill, passion and diversity of the CTM team through interactive and challenging sessions. Full participation is expected in two 3-day intensives in order to develop depth and strength to the living leadership your team

offers. Ramp-up the self-reflective intensity through the coaching stream, practise theological reflection in various models, and stoke your passion for living leadership together.

What is a team?

In this context our understanding of a team is two or more people who are functioning together to achieve an outcome. Examples of teams expected to benefit from participating in this program include: Local Ministry teams, Presbytery teams, Leaders across collaborative communities, Worship teams, Councils, Sub Committees and more.

For The Kids

Have Fun!

Chocolate Birds Nests



Ingredients:

200g cooking chocolate buttons
1 packet Chang's crunchy noodles
4 tbsp crunchy peanut butter

Method:

Microwave the chocolate in a heat proof bowl for 20 second intervals until it melts.

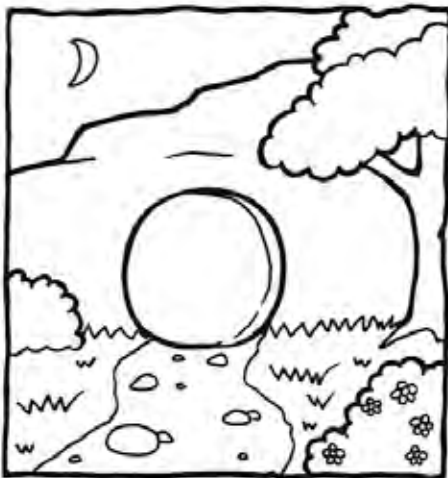
Stir in the peanut butter. Add the crunchy noodles and stir until well coated in chocolate.

Spoon the mixture into patty cases and mould into birds nests with the ends of two teaspoons.

Refrigerate for 1 hour and fill with your favourite mini eggs.



Spot the difference 5



Easter Sunday Word Search



Y N E S I R
T A Y P S O
N C D U M I
E M S N A V
L E B I U A
J C R O S S

CROSS LENT SAVIDR
JESUS RISEN SUNDAY



What other words remind you of Easter?

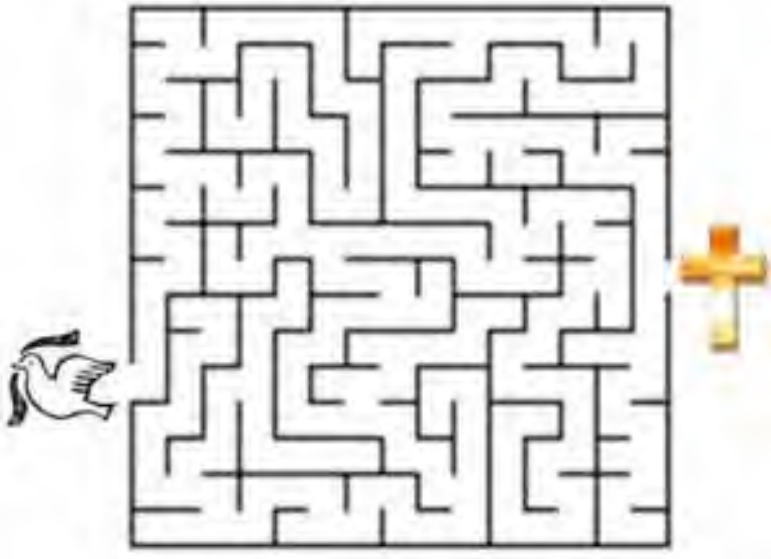
Courtesy of FamilyCorner.com Magazine, Inc. www.familycorner.com (for scholastic or private use only)

Why did the Easter egg hide?

He was a little chicken!

Easter

Help the dove get to the cross



Group Profile

Young Adults

The Young Adults group has now been gathering in one form or another since 2009. It started at the request of some of our young adults who were putting all their time and faith into other groups within the congregation and wider church and felt that they needed something to refocus and replenish their own faith journeys.

Over the course of a year we have 3-5 blocks of studies that run for approximately 6 weeks with the first week meeting over a meal to think about what we would like to focus on during the block.

The group has a core of about 6 people between 20 and 35 years of age, however seasonal work and studies can cause the numbers to rise to between 10 and 12 people.

This means that over the course of the year there can be up to 20 individuals that have attended at least once during the year.

Some of the studies we have focused on are: Genesis, back to basics (looking at the stories most learn as a child), DVD studies, Movies, Lenten studies, The pilgrim way book series and worship planning. A number of its members have even made the decision, after exploring their faith through these studies, to take on the confirmation course leading to being confirmed members of our congregation.

The group also engages in social activities including conversation over the evening



meals and family picnics by the lake.

Since its beginnings the young adults group has evolved with a number of our young adults getting married or starting young families. It has now become more than a group that studies and shares its faith together but has become a close group of friends.

For more information about the Young Adults Group please contact Rosalie 58212077, rosalie.john@bigpond.com or Melissa Graham 58211102, melgraham9@bigpond.com

Faith In Action

Women's Evening Group

Every Christmas the Women's Evening group call for donations of goods, vouchers and cash for needy families. These donations go a long way to help families feel a little normality in a time where retailers encouragement of spending is advertised everywhere.

Although Christmas can be a time of struggle for these families, illness, disability, death, age, crime, unemployment, family circumstances and disadvantages that place pressure on the needy are more than a once a year struggle. Amazingly many of these families also think about others in need and are willing to share what has been given to

them with others in difficult circumstances. They even ask if it is ok to do so. As a result of the initial care given, the caring multiplies. The Christmas call to action of peace, love and generosity is truly alive.

While the bulk of collection is during October and November and "Christmas Cheer" packs can be individualised to the family, the Women's Evening Group spend time collecting and distributing "Top Ups" to many of the needy families all year round. This can only be done by the generosity of those willing to donate throughout the year.

How Can You Help:

- Long Term "use by" dates on food items give the most flexibility, but short term "best by" dates can still be utilised as some families are given "top ups" during the year.
- Basic and treat foods are appreciated, staple foods that can be used to stock up cupboards are most helpful. Most of the families that receive packs will cook meals if they have the ingredients.

One comment was "It's wonderful to open the cupboards and see something there".

- Choosing bargains whenever possible as you can get twice as much for the same money. If you see a suitable half price item you could tuck it away, as this way families can be given twice as much or more families can be helped.
- Multi-age gifts are the easiest to allocate.
- Games and all sorts of balls and sports equipment are much sought after.
- Toiletries, bathroom and hygiene products are always sought after.
- A kind word and "Gee Up" to Dobbin never goes astray. It's been discovered he prefers chocolate to hay and oats.

If you know of a deserving family or individual talk to Val Gibbs. Privacy is very important and Trevor and Val know how to keep confidentiality. "Our Families are not those asking for handouts, but they are in difficult circumstances".



Special Events

The places to be



Tuesday - 31st March,
7:00pm Holy Week
devotions

Wednesday - 1st
April, 7:00pm Holy
Week devotions.

These services will
be a 30-40 minute
reflection on the
final days before
Jesus' crucifixion

Maundy Thursday
2nd April, 7:00pm
Service

At this service there will be
opportunity to reflect on
the time Jesus spent with his
disciples on the night before
his crucifixion and what that
means for us.

Good Friday
3rd April, 9:30am Service

Easter Sunday
5th April, 6:30am Dawn
Service on the West side of
Victoria Park Lake.

This is a short service of
celebration followed by
shared breakfast. Bring your
own folding chair and mug.
All else will be provided.

9:30am All age worship
All Services and devotions,
except the Dawn Service,
will be held at Shepparton
Uniting Church. The 6:30am
Dawn Service will be held on
the west side of Victoria Park
Lake in Wyndham Street,
Shepparton.

Induction

Service of Rev. Loni Vaitohi to the Shepparton and Rural Uniting Churches

Shepparton Uniting Church
Thursday 12th March 2015
at 7pm.

Palm Sunday Service Sunday 29th March

Join us and our rural
Congregations for our Palm
Sunday Service on Mt. Major,
Dookie.

The gates to Mt. Major will
open at about 4pm. The
service will begin at 5pm
and conclude at sunset
(approx. 5:55pm).

Children and other volunteers
will be supplied with dress-
ups and palm fronds for the
procession during the service.
We will even have a donkey!

Holy Week Service Times

Monday - 30th March,
7:00pm Holy Week devotions



Global God, Local Focus

Friday 1st - Monday 4th May

A weekend of worship,
fellowship and inspiration for
youth and adults of all ages
featuring guest speaker from
Ireland Julian 'Jools' Hamilton.

For more information please
see advertisement on the
next page or visit
www.gvunited.weebly.com for
the weekends timetable and
other information.





GLOBAL GOD - LOCAL FOCUS

A WEEKEND OF WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP & INSPIRATION

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE & ADULTS OF ALL AGES.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN SHEPPARTON VICTORIA - MAY 1 TO MAY 5

Featuring special guest **Julian "Jools" Hamilton**, a Methodist Chaplain serving Trinity College in Dublin. He is well known and loved amongst our Uniting Church young folk after key speaking at multiple National Christian Youth Conventions and at youth events in the former Goulburn Murray Presbytery of Victoria.



The event is open to year 7-12 students, young adults, ministry workers, and leaders of all ages.

It is being held at Shepparton Uniting Church, 150 Maude St, Shepparton

Cost: \$45 covers all meals Saturday, Sunday breakfast, two nights cabin accommodation at Moira Park Scout Camp, Kialla. BYO bedding.

OR \$15 without accommodation.

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE NOW!

For more information and full program contact:

Lorraine Threlfall, 0427214627

Or visit www.togetherwithjools.weebly.com

THE RUNDOWN

Friday, 1st of May – United Youth Rally at 7pm

Saturday, 2nd of May – 9am-9.30pm (\$15 includes all meals)

Includes bible study led by Julian, small discussion groups, electives (social justice, art, music, active, passive, discussion, coffee and chocolate), evening rally.

Sunday 3rd of May – Morning worship 9.30am, Evening ecumenical worship 6pm.

Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th of May – workshops for ministers/leaders (TBA)



Presbytery News

New Directions

Presbytery is currently looking at new directions for 2015 and beyond - how we might better use the resources that are available to us to undertake the mission of the Church.

One question is how we best utilise the property of the Church for missional purposes. How much property do we need in order to carry out our mission faithfully and effectively? Insurance and maintenance costs are big items on the budget of a small Congregation. Does the Congregation need

to consider retaining the property, or would it make better use of resources if the property were to be sold, some of the funds invested, and the Congregation worship in another local building for a nominal charge, without the costs of maintenance, insurance and utility costs?

This issue can also relate to larger Congregations who have more Manses or other property than they currently need, in order to undertake their mission. (Note that we are not talking about

compulsorily requiring any Congregation to dispose of their property.)

We need to challenge ourselves with these questions. Having to face these issues can sometimes be painful, but at other times it also brings release. No longer do we have to worry about maintaining the property - we can become free to get on with the mission to which God is calling us.

Barbara Chapman

Interfaith News

Indonesian Interfaith Visitors

St Stephen's Uniting Church Wodonga has for many years run an interfaith programme with Indonesia in which Christian and Muslim groups have visited St Stephen's for extended stays, and Wodonga members have visited Indonesia.

On two occasions, Shepparton has shared in hosting Interfaith visitors. Some will remember Agung and Benny, whom we hosted for two days in March 2010. In August 2010, six of another twelve visitors, men and women, Muslim and Christian, lay and ordained, spent three days of their visit to the Synod in Shepparton. They spoke at several Shepparton, Mooroopna and Dookie churches, in each

case one Christian and one Muslim going together; they prayed at the Albanian and Turkish mosques. Visits to the Sikh Place of Prayer, the Islamic school, Rumbalara and the Art Gallery were also arranged.

On February 11, two Indonesians arrive in Wodonga for a three-month stay. Shepparton will be hosting them from Friday, May 15 to Thursday, May 21.

The Christian is the Revd Yanne Erickha Sari, a minister of the GKJ or Protestant Church of Java, one of the Partner Churches of the Uniting Church in Australia. This will be Yanne's first visit to Australia. As yet, we have

no further details about her. Muslim, Moh Abar, from Salatiga, Central Java, is the second visitor. He currently works at the PERCIK Institute for Social Research, researching local politics. His interests include the religious and social empowering of people. He has a strong background in interfaith relationships and has a number of publications.

Our two visitors will worship at the Uniting Church on March 8 and will visit other churches, two mosques, the school and Sikh Place of Prayer, and other places to be arranged. We hope you will share in this exciting visit.

Joan McRae

Around the Congregation

Palestine's West Bank and Ecumenical Accompaniment Program



If you are looking for some further information about my time in Palestine's West Bank,

I've just begun a blog, so that people can keep up with what's happening at each

stage. It can be found at www.joanhfisher.wordpress.com

Tomorrow (9th February 2015) it'll be just 6 weeks till I leave Melbourne for Palestine-Israel!

The attached photo was taken on my trip in 2013, from the Gethsemane Garden on the outskirts of Jerusalem. It sums up the hopes of our Ecumenical Accompaniment program, as well as of most Israelis and Palestinians. I'm very grateful to all those who've expressed interest in this venture and offered the prayer support on which we'll depend.

Blessings, Joan



Congratulations

Congratulations to Jen Davies and Cameron Shields on their recent nuptials on the 10th of

January 2015. We pray for a long and happy life together filled with God's everlasting love.

Do you have news? Like to share?

If you have some news, event or article that you wish to share with the congregation please feel free to contact the publicity committee at publicity@sheppartonuc.org.au or drop it off into the box in the front foyer of the Shepparton Uniting Church.

Reflecting on God's Word

Seeing the Mountain

While honeymooning in Tasmania last month, we were lucky enough to catch one of the few days of the year when Cradle Mountain was in full glory, in the sunshine. We spent a glorious day wandering around Dove Lake and filling our camera's memory card with wonderful images and memories to take home with us. Hot, tired but with our hearts full, we retired for the night to our accommodation, only to find the next morning that the cloud had rolled in and dramatically changed the landscape.

So, sensing a photo opportunity, we wandered back down to the old boat shed on Dove Lake to have another iconic photo opportunity. In the same place where we had to

fight the hordes of amateur photographers looking for 'that shot' of their Tasmanian holiday, less than 24 hours later, we were the only people there. The sense of a looming mountain was gone and a strange feeling absorbed us as we knew it was there yet could find no evidence of it.

Faith, sometimes, can be like this. We come into the church with the crowds; we are in awe of the majesty of Christ and go home with our hearts full. Other weeks we enter into the same place in the same circumstances, looking for that same feeling. Why then, is it not always there? Instead of going home with a full heart, do we go home feeling empty and frustrated?

At a recent Bible study we were talking about what we

were thankful for. While I'm caught up in my own life and being so thankful for my amazing wedding, holiday and new husband, a little voice near me piped up with 'Thank you for puddles to jump in'. While I'm busy looking for the majestic mountain hidden by the clouds, I'm reminded of the water which was always there.

Often it's too easy to forget the simple things in life. The things which are in plain sight and consistent and taken for granted. Let's try to focus on the simplicity of life, to have faith like a child. To trust that one day, the cloud will move and we will be able to see the mountain again and be filled with awe and wonder all over again.

Jen Shields



Preaching Plan **March 2015 / April 2015**

March 2015	1st Lent 2.	8th Lent 3.	15th Lent 4.	22nd Lent 5.	29th Passion/ Palm Sunday
9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening	Rosalie HC 6.00pm Combined churches	Rosalie 7.00pm Joan McRae	Loni 4:30pm Messy Church Rosalie	Rosalie 2.00pm Kialla Gardens Loni	Loni
Dookie 9.00am	Joan McRae	Joy Sims	Joy Sims	Loni	No morning service. Service on Mount Major 5.00pm approx. Gates open 4pm
Pine Lodge 11.00am	Joan McRae				
Kialla West 11.00am		Joy Sims			
Katandra West 11.00am			Joy Sims		
Lectionary Readings	Gn. 17:1-7, 15-16. Ps. 22:23-31 Rom. 4:13-25. Mk. 8:31-38.	Ex. 20:1-17. Ps. 19. 1 Cor. 1:18-25. Jn. 2:13-22.	Nm 21:4-9. Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22. Eph. 2:1-10. Jn. 3:14-21.	Jer. 31:31-34. Ps. 51:1-12. Heb.55-10. Jn. 12:20-33.	Is.50:4-9a Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29. Phil. 2:5-11. Mk. 11:1-11 Jn. 12:12-16.

April 2015	30th March 1st April Holy Week	2/3rd Maundy Thursday Good Friday	5th Easter Day	12th Easter 2.	19th Easter 3
9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening	7pm	Thurs 7pm Rosalie Friday 9.30am Loni	6.00am Rosalie 9:30am HC Rosalie	Rosalie 7.00pm Loni	Loni 4:30pm Messy Church Lorraine
Dookie 9.00am		Thursday 7.30pm Pine Lodge Loni	Loni	HC Loni	Joan McRae
Pine Lodge 11.00am			Loni HC		
Kialla West 11.00am				HC Loni	
Katandra West 11.00am					Joan McRae
Lectionary Readings		Mndy. Thu. Ex.12:1-4. Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19. 1 Cor. 11:23-26. Jn. 13:1-17, 31b-35, Gd. Fri. Is. 52:13 - 53:12 Ps.22. Heb. 10:16-25 Jn. 18:1-19, 42	Acts 10:34-43. Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Cor. 15:1-11 Jn. 20:1-18.	Acts 4:32-35 Ps. 133. 1 Jn. 1:1 - 2:2. Jn. 20:19-31.	Acts 3:12-19. Ps. 4. Jn. 3:1-7. Lk. 24:36b-48

Upcoming Events **March 2015 - May 2015**

March 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30 7pm Holy Week Service	31 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Holy Week Service					1 9:30am Worship
2	3 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm-9pm Senior Youth Group	4	5 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	6	7 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	8 9:30am Worship 7pm Evensong
9	10 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm-9pm Senior Youth Group	11 12pm Leisure Lunch 7:30pm Church Council	12 10am Multicultural Play Group 10:45am Worship at Banksia lodge 1:30pm Worship at Hakea Lodge 2pm English Conversation Group 2pm Fellowship Group 4pm Together in Voice 7pm Induction of Loni Vaitohi	13 5pm KUCA	14 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	15 9:30am Worship 4:30-6:30pm Messy Church
16	17 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm-9pm Senior Youth Group	18 1:30pm UCAF	19 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	20	21 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	22 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Garden Service
23	24 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 2:15pm worship at Acacia House 7pm-9pm Senior Youth Group	25 1:30pm Worship at Ava Maria 7:30pm Women's Evening Group	26 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	27 5pm KUCA	28 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	29 9:30am Worship 5pm Mt Major Palm Sunday Service

April 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 7pm Holy Week Service	2 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3 9:30 Good Friday Worship	4 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	5 6am Sunrise Easter Worship 9:30am Easter Day Worship
6	7 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	8 7:30pm Church Council	9 10am Multicultural Play Group 10:45am Worship at Banksia lodge 1:30pm Worship at Hakea Lodge 2pm English Conversation Group 2pm Fellowship Group 4pm Together in Voice	10	11 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	12 9:30am Worship 7pm Evensong
13	14 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	15 1:30pm UCAF	16 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	17	18 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	19 9:30am Worship 4:30-6:30pm Messy Church
20	21 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm-9pm Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	22 1:30pm Worship at Ava Maria 7:30pm Women's Evening Group	23 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	24 5pm KUCA	25 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	26 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Gardens Service
27	28 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 12:15pm Worship at Acacia House 7pm Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	29 1:30pm Worship at Ava Maria 7:30pm Women's Evening Group	30 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice			

Upcoming Events **March 2015 - May 2015**

May 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3 9:30am Worship
4	5 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	6	7 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	8 5pm KUCA	9 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	10 9:30am Worship 7pm Evensong
11	12 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	13 7:30pm Church Council	14 10am Multicultural Play Group 10:45am Worship at Banksia Lodge 1:30pm Worship at Hakea Lodge 2pm English Conversation Group 2pm Fellowship Group 4pm Together in Voice	15	16 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	17 9:30am Worship 4:30-6:30pm Messy Church
18	19 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	20 1:30pm UCAF	21 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	22 5pm KUCA	23 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	24 9:30am Pentecost Worship 2pm Kialla Gardens Service
25	26 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 12:15pm Worship at Acacia House 7pm Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	27 1:30pm Worship at Ava Maria 7:30pm Women's Evening Group	28 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	29	30 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	31

Rural Round Up **St Andrew's Dookie**

The Dookie family tea has been running since March 2008. It was started by Norma Sutherland with the assistance of Sue Bennett, as an informal time of food and fellowship.

This was not necessarily aimed at the general church community, but rather the wider Dookie and rural community, providing a space for those who would often be on their own, to come together and share in a meal with friends.

Over the last few years the family dinner has gained an average attendance of 20 people, with an even mix of regular church attendees and wider community members.

A donation is appreciated to help with the costs of food. At the end of each year

the remaining money, after food costs, is donated to the church or another group or charity of choice, which then allows the group to further help others.

The family tea is held on the 4th Friday of the month, everyone is most welcome to attend. The meal is started off with nibbles and chat, followed by main and then dessert. Please let Norma know if attending for catering purposes or for any further information 58288291. The next family tea is on February 27th, 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start.



**Shepparton
Uniting Church**

Shepparton Uniting Church
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