



# Glen Waverley

## Uniting Church

### Welcome

*GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love: [meet\\_god@anytime.with.us](mailto:meet_god@anytime.with.us)*

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - February 2015					
Time	February 1 Epiphany 4	February 8 Epiphany 5	February 15 Transfiguration	February 22 Lent 1	
8.00 am	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Rev Neil Peters Communion
9.15 am	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Rev Neil Peters Alanee Hearnshaw	Rev Neil Peters Worship Team	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw
11.00 am	Rev Neil Peters Alison Clarkson	Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw
7.00 pm	Camp	-	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw
Lectionary	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20C 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39	2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9	Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15	
Liturgical Colour	Green	Green	White	Purple	

February 18: Ash Wednesday - Rev Neil Peters - 7:30pm in the Church  
 Readings: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
 Liturgical Colour - Purple

### JANUARY

4 January	10am	Combined Service
11 January	10am	Combined Service
18 January	10am	Combined Service
25 January	10am	Combined Service

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FEBRUARY

18 February	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
28 February		Used Book Sale

### MARCH

26-29 March	Various	Strathdon Art Show
28 March	9.30am	Safe Church Training



# Safe Church Training

**Glen Waverley Uniting Church**

**Saturday 28 March 2015**

**9.30am – 1.30pm**

The Uniting Church affirms that all people are made in the image of God.

The Uniting Church commits itself to the care, protection and safety of all people with whom it comes in contact.

As a community of faith, we are committed to providing a safe environment for both children and adults to encounter God, to develop relationships as part of a community and to grow in faith.

## Who should attend a Safe Church Workshop?

- ❖ Anyone who is involved in ministry with young people (0-18 years old)
- ❖ People in leadership and pastoral roles within the congregation, such as Elders, Church Council members and Ministers.
- ❖ Anyone interested in learning more about practical ways of making our churches safe places.



Participation in Safe Church Training is a requirement for Safe Church Recognition.

Each participant will receive a comprehensive manual. Topics covered in the workshop will include:

- ❖ Safe Church foundations
- ❖ Protecting vulnerable people
- ❖ Child Protection
- ❖ Duty of care and accountability
- ❖ Understanding and responding to abuse
- ❖ Protective behaviours
- ❖ Safe leadership
- ❖ Safe programs and environments
- ❖ Uniting Church Policy and procedures

**Safe Church Workshops are offered across the Synod without cost to church members.**

To register for this Workshop go to:

<https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/safechurchtraining2015/registration/glenwaverley/>

For further information please contact the Safe Church Educator Josh Woollett.

Phone: (03) 9340 8810 or email: [safechurchtraining@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:safechurchtraining@victas.uca.org.au)



## STRATHDON PANCAKE DAY

Tuesday 17 February 10am to 1pm

Come to the Strathdon Community Centre and enjoy a variety of pancakes.



## STRATHDON ART SHOW

26-29 March 2015

Visit our website for all the art show details

[www.strathdonartshow.org.au](http://www.strathdonartshow.org.au)

Join us on opening night Thursday 26 March at 7pm, for Cocktail Party and Presentations, cost \$15. Other days \$8 – visiting hours

Friday 27 March: 9am – 6pm

Saturday 28 March: 10am to 5pm

Sunday 29 March: 12 – 4pm

Guest artists - Lee Machelak, Barbara McManus and Gregory Smith.

Entry forms are available from the website.

## **The Christian Church in the World**

### **Towards 2015: India, Nigeria and the UK**

Three countries undergoing radical change as 2015 looms are India, Nigeria and the UK. Hindu nationalists now control India's federal parliament, allowing them to further entrench their anti-Christian Hindutva ideology. On 1 December St Sebastian's Catholic Cathedral in the national capital New Delhi was torched in an arson attack. Northern Nigerians are reeling as Islamic jihad escalates across the north-east. With sectarian tensions soaring, the economy is in meltdown and, with general elections scheduled for February 2015, Nigeria is ripe for implosion. British culture is increasingly anti-Christian. A battle to define 'British values' has begun and could prove to be a watershed moment for the Church. Outstanding Christians schools are failing inspections because they teach there is absolute truth. Please pray for the Church in India, Nigeria and the UK.

### **Towards 2015: The World has changed**

Heading into 2015, we need to accept that the world has changed. The number of Christians displaced by war, threatened by terrorism, destroyed by violent persecution, crushed by crippling discrimination and even held captive as slaves is growing at an alarming rate. We have entered an age where mission and persecution must be seen as inseparable; where the needs of the Body are so enormous they simply must be shared globally; where faith-building is imperative for the purpose of survival; and where worship must have room for indignation, lament and the very serious business of intercessory prayer. As we head into 2015, will we commit to this? Pray for the persecuted, and for the Lord to revive his Church. For salvation comes from the Lord, by grace through faith.

*From Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

For facing the New Year, there is encouragement in Romans 16:25-27.

"Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to the Gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all people, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever."

As "With Love to the World" puts it: "Every thing begins and ends with God, who can sustain those who rely on God." This is great encouragement for people under pressure from the world around.

## **An Invitation for this Congregation to Consider**

Several months ago the Church Council was asked by the Presbytery of Port Phillip East to consider the possibility of sharing our property with a Uniting Church Indonesian congregation. This congregation needed more space than they currently had for their ministry. The Presbytery said there was the option of some of their ministry operating from our complex or all of their ministry operating here at Glen Waverley.

While recognising that we are a large and busy church, the church council had some excitement about this possibility and felt we needed to explore this opportunity and take it seriously without committing to it. So representatives from both congregations have had two informal conversations to begin to get to know and understand the needs and hopes of each other.

We can see that there are great opportunities for the youth and young adults to share activities or times of worship together. The big question is how far can we go with this cooperative arrangement? Also how does the vision we have for growing our own ministry and mission fit with this opportunity? What are all the practical matters in terms of property, finance and administration to think through if this were to become reality?

The easy option would have been to say this is all too hard and we will continue as we are. But we are in the midst of a strong Asian community and this possibility might be a significant step in growing the work of God in this community.

The Church Council will work with the Presbytery to carefully and prayerfully consider this possibility. The Church Council will not rush this process as it is very important that a wise and considered decision is made. We are interested to hear any feedback on this matter. You may just want to chat about it with members of church council or the ministry team. We have not got a firm proposal at this stage. As things become clearer about hopes and possibilities we will share them with the congregation.

Please be aware that as the discussions progress and if there is a proposal coming forward it will be the congregation that will make the final decision. This is too big to be a decision for Church Council. The Church Council will resource you with the material you will need to make a prayerful and considered discernment.

You can refer to the church council minutes if you wish on the following links: <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CouncilMinutes20140826> and <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CouncilMinutes20141216>

Neil Peters on behalf of Church Council.

## Children and Families Interim Arrangements

The ministry team have considered how to support children and family ministry in the coming months now that Belinda Clear has concluded her ministry with us. The ministry team and church council have been delighted to see how members of the congregation have taken up the challenge of leading this area of ministry in this interim period. But they will need the support of the ministry team.

The church council supported the discernment of the team that Alanee Hearnshaw will be the first point of contact within the ministry team, and will be a support and resource person for ministry with children and families. Neil and Alanee will share the pastoral role in this area. Alanee has made a start by meeting with many of the leaders before Christmas. Let us support and pray for those members of the congregation who are prepared to take on extra responsibility in this area of ministry.

Neil Peters.

## With Love to the World

With Love to the World is a daily bible reading resource that some of our community use. The new subscriptions for With Love to the World will commence in early February, so now is the time to look at whether you would like to receive these in 2015. The cost is \$18 for the year. Please let the office know if you would like to continue or commence with a subscription for 2015, so that we can order the right amount.

## Honey

2014 has been a good year for 'Asylum Seeker' honey sales and we look forward to further successful sales again this year.

Unfortunately the wholesale price has risen sever times in the past 12 months - which has mostly been absorbed - but because of serious honey shortage the price must inevitably increase. We hope you will continue to support this worthy cause.

Heather Wilkins.

## Advance Notice - Book Sale

As part of the Church fundraising next year, we will be again holding a used book sale at the Church on Saturday February 28. Your donations of books will ensure that we are able to repeat last year's success, so please remember the date and start putting aside books that you have read.

For further information, see Sue Morgan.

## Inclusive Community Report - January 2015

Happy New Year to all members of our church family.

### Prayer Chain:

If you have a prayer request and don't want it placed on the weekly prayer list, we do have a prayer chain. All requests for prayer are kept confidential and are only passed onto chain members. We don't need to know why you are requesting prayer, just a name is fine. If you are interested please contact Heather in the Office.

### Munch with a Bunch:

Forty-five people attended our Christmas lunch at the RSL on Sunday 21 December, following Belinda's farewell.

### Dates for your Diary:

**Intergenerational Dinner** - We had a dinner for all age groups, earlier in the year, and it was very successful. We plan to have another one early in 2015 (February or March). When we have settled on a date, we will advertise it in the bulletin.

**Pancake Day** - is on Tuesday 17 February. We hope to sell pancakes at lunchtime. More details later.

### Meeting:

Our next Inclusive Community meeting will be held on Tuesday 27 January at 10am in the Outer Vestry. If you have any ideas or suggestions for functions in 2015, please let us know and we may be able to add them to our calendar for the year.

Jan Clear

## Ministerial Leave

Please note that both Rev Neil Peters and Alanee Hearnshaw will be taking leave after Christmas. Neil will be on leave from 26 December and returning 15 January 2015. Alanee will also be on leave from 26 December to 20 January, 2015.

## Lenten Studies 2015

Study groups will commence in the week starting Monday 23 February. Our study booklet will be, "Through the Eyes of Love" by Rev Ian Price - a study of the nature and impact of Jesus in people's lives through the eyes of Peter, John, Mary Magdalene, Luke and Paul. If you are interested in leading or hosting a group please contact Alison Clarkson by Sunday 18 February 2015. Details of dates, times and locations of groups will be advertised at the start of February.

Alison Clarkson - phone: 9560 3167 or email: [alison@gwuc.org.au](mailto:alison@gwuc.org.au)